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Yitzhak Rabin High School to move to Hillel Academy building Donna Palmer-Dodds to be head of both schools

By Michael Regenstreif

Renovations are now underway at the Hillel Academy building at 31 Nadojny Sachs Private, which will lead to Yitzhak Rabin High School's move to the Jewish Community Campus over the winter break in December. It has also been announced that Donna Palmer-Dodds, the former co-principal of the Vancouver Talmud Torah day school, has been appointed head of both schools.

Hillel Academy and Yitzhak Rabin will each have their own sections of the building when renovations are completed. As well, Cheder Rambam will be moving to the school building and will have its own wing. Classes for the Ottawa Talmud Torah Afternoon School and the Ottawa Modern Jewish School will also continue to be held there.

The Jewish Federation of Ottawa has made education a top priority and has been working with the schools to help find solutions to such problems as space and falling

enrolment. Mitchell Bellman, Federation president and CEO, told the *Bulletin* that the Federation is committed to raising the necessary funds to pay for the renovations to the school building.

For Palmer-Dodds, it was a chance encounter on a park bench that led the non-Jewish teacher to a career helming Jewish schools, first in Vancouver and now in Ottawa. She was a veteran high school teacher with years of experience in Ottawa and Vancouver – and New Delhi, India – when her family moved back to Vancouver from Ottawa in 2002 following her husband's job transfer there.

"A woman whose daughter was in the same gymnastics class as my daughter came and sat down beside me," said Palmer-Dodds, recalling the incident during an interview with the *Bulletin* as she moved into her new office at Hillel Academy.

It turned out the woman was a member of the board of Vancouver
(Continued on page 2)



Donna Palmer-Dodds in what will be the teachers' lounge for Hillel Academy and Yitzhak Rabin High School when renovations are complete in December.
(OJB photo: Michael Regenstreif)

Israel year in review

5768: Worries on Iran, new peace overtures, Olmert's fall

By Leslie Susser

JERUSALEM (JTA) – In Israel, 5768 was the year of multiple peace overtures, a growing sense of urgency regarding Iran's nuclear program and an embattled prime minister's losing fight to stay in office.

Israel and the de facto leadership of the Palestinian Authority launched renewed negotiations after

a U.S.-hosted peace conference last November in Annapolis, Maryland and Syria announced in May they were holding indirect peace negotiations under Turkish mediation. And in June, Israel and the Hamas leadership in the Gaza Strip agreed to a truce brokered by Egypt.

But with Prime Minister Ehud Olmert under investigation on a

number of corruption allegations and about to lose power, there were lingering suspicions that his peace efforts were aimed more at trying to survive politically than at achieving genuine diplomatic breakthroughs.

Olmert's political weaknesses cast a shadow over his strategic and diplomatic efforts throughout the year.

Even before Olmert and P.A.

President Mahmoud Abbas met at Annapolis, peace advocates worried that the two leaders were too weak to reach a peace deal. At the summit, which drew an impressive array of Arab leaders from across the Middle East, the two sides pledged to conclude a final Israeli-Palestinian peace deal by the end of 2008 – a "shelf" agreement that

would be implemented as soon as conditions permitted.

The United States devoted a great deal of energy to the process. President George W. Bush visited Israel twice, in January and in May. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice made several trips to monitor progress. Former British prime

(Continued on page 2)

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Peace with Hamas remains a distant prospect

(Continued from page 1)
minister Tony Blair, the special envoy of the international Quartet comprised of the United States, the European Union, the United Nations and Russia, helped to raise more than \$7 billion to jumpstart the depressed Palestinian economy. U.S. General Keith Dayton trained Palestinian forces to take over security in parts of the West Bank.

But as long as Hamas controlled Gaza, full peace between Israel and the Palestinians seemed a distant prospect. Shelling and rocket attacks on Israel from Gaza continued ceaselessly, while Israel's two-pronged retaliatory strategy – targeting the militiamen and imposing a land and sea blockade on Gaza – failed to bring quiet to the beleaguered residents of southern Israel.

Instead, Israel endured international criticism for declaring Gaza “a hostile territory” and severely cutting electricity and fuel supplies to the strip.

In late January, Hamas scuttled Israel's blockade by blowing up the border fence between Gaza and Egypt, allowing hundreds of thousands of Palestinians to stream into Egypt. After Egypt resealed the border, fighting between Israel and the militants escalated, with Hamas firing longer-range Grad rockets at the city of Ashkelon and Israel conducting an incursion into Gaza in early March.

Quiet came only when Hamas and Israel agreed to a truce deal in late June. But Hamas clung to its refusal to recognize Israel or con-

plate any peace settlement with the Jewish state.

Meanwhile, Israel launched indirect peace talks with another sponsor of terrorism and longtime enemy, the regime in Damascus.

Though the year had begun in the aftermath of an Israeli airstrike on a suspected Syrian nuclear installation, and though February saw Hezbollah operations chief Imad Mughniyeh assassinated on Syrian soil, Israel and Syria held secret contacts under Turkish auspices. On May 21, in a joint statement issued simultaneously in Jerusalem, (Continued on page 14)



President George Bush (centre) walks with Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert (left) and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas on November 27, 2007 during the Annapolis Conference at the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Md.

(Photo: Omar Rashid/ PPO BHI Images)

Palmer-Dodds turned around school's fortunes

(Continued from page 1)

Talmud Torah, the Jewish elementary day school. In February 2003, she told her that Talmud Torah was looking for a Grade 7 English teacher.

“I’m not Jewish, how can I work at a Jewish school?” Palmer-Dodds recalls asking her.

She was told there were non-Jewish teachers at the school and she went to apply for the job. She was hired and the school and the relocated teacher proved to be a good fit.

“I loved the community. I loved the students and taught for the four months left in the school year,” she said.

At the end of that year, a new opportunity arose at the Vancouver Talmud Torah and Palmer-Dodds became the school's co-vice-principal and guidance counsellor. As it turned out, one of the other applicants for the co-vice-principal positions was Catby Lowenstein, the woman she had met on the park bench who first steered her to the Talmud Torah. Lowenstein became the other co-vice-principal.

Several months later, the principal's position opened up. The two who were approached by the board asking them to name one of them to step into the principal's job.

“We proposed to the board that, instead of a principal and vice-principal hierarchy, we’d have a co-principalship model,” she said.

The school's board was reticent, but agreed to try out the plan. Palmer-Dodds and Lowenstein became co-principals with no vice-principal.

Ultimately, the co-principal model proved so successful for the school that the

board itself took on a co-president model for itself.

“In education, collaboration and shared leadership is the way to go.”

The two worked together as co-principals for three years – until Palmer-Dodds' husband was transferred back to Ottawa a year ago – and were credited for turning the fortunes of the Vancouver Talmud Torah around. Enrolment rose and they transformed what was described as “a negative school culture into an environment of respect and dignity.”

Earlier this year, Palmer-Dodds began to look for a position in Ottawa and was put in touch with Bellman at the Federation.

With education, and particularly the revitalization of Ottawa's Jewish day schools, a top priority, the Federation was looking for ways in which Hillel Academy and Yitzhak Rabin could work together in areas of common interest. With a move by Yitzhak Rabin to the Jewish Community Campus in the works, it also made sense to

combine certain aspects of the two schools' administrations, said Bellman.

Both schools will have their own senior academic administrators working in collaboration with Palmer-Dodds. At Hillel Academy, Wendy Waxman (general studies) and Sara Breiner (Judaic studies) remain as vice-principals. At Yitzhak Rabin High School, Cynthia Bates becomes the new principal for general studies joining Rabbi Howard Finkelshtein, the principal for Judaic studies.

Given her successful relationship with the Jewish community in Vancouver, Palmer-Dodds is excited to again be working in a Jewish school system.

Palmer-Dodds expressed great excitement about Yitzhak Rabin's impending move to the campus.

“The high school students will have their own wing and their own lounge,” she said.

She added that some exciting ideas for the Yitzhak Rabin students are being discussed.

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Tennessee principal who launched *The Paper Clips Project* to speak at Women's Campaign celebration, Sept. 21

By Liana Shlien
Whitwell, Tennessee is a small, ethnically homogeneous community of 1,600 about 120 miles southeast of Nashville.

Linda Hooper, a public school educator for more than 30 years, is the principal of Whitwell Middle School there, a school that became famous for the *Paper Clip Project*. Hooper's unique and very successful approach to Holocaust education.

Hooper will be in Ottawa on Sunday, September 21 and will be the guest speaker at the Jewish Federation of Ottawa Women's Cam-

paign celebrates its 36th year with a women's luncheon at Congregation Beth Shalom.

Hooper will speak about her groundbreaking work, which was documented in the award-winning 2004 film, *Paper Clips*.

Living in such a small homogenous community, the Whitwell students almost never encountered other cultures.

"Our children live very sheltered lives," said Hooper in a phone interview with the *Bulletin*.

In 1998, Hooper started an after-school class geared toward tolerance and accepting others. The goal, she said, was to curb bullying and cliques. Soon, though, the class branched into an exploration of the history of the Holocaust to demonstrate "what happens when people don't stand up for others."

Thirty Grade 8 students

— and some of their parents — were shocked to hear, for the first time, that six million Jews were murdered by the Nazi regime in the Holocaust and suggested they start a collection of objects in order to help comprehend the sheer numbers of people lost.

Hooper agreed to the project on condition that what was collected was meaningful.

Doing some research, the students learned that the paper clip had been invented in 1899 by Johan Vaaler, a Jewish Norwegian, and that Norwegians wore paper clips during the Second World War as a silent protest against the Nazis. The students decided to try and collect six million paper clips.

Students sent out letters asking people to send them paper clips. The letters went out to people around their own region and across the



Linda Hooper, founder of the *Paper Clip Project*.

United States. They even wrote to such celebrities such as Steven Spielberg and former U.S. president Bill Clinton, who commended their efforts. Many of those who sent paper clips attached personal messages.

The project led to the establishment of the Children's Holocaust Memorial in Whitwell in 2001. Students poured 11 million paper clips into a German railcar that had transported victims to concentration camps. The 11 million paper clips represent the Jews, Gypsies, homosexuals and

handicapped murdered in the Holocaust.

Another 11 million paper clips have been incorporated into a sculpture dedicated to the 1.5 million children who perished.

Some two million paper clips were put into "shtetl boxes," each containing 3,000 paper clips that have been sent to schools around the world to tell the history of Lida, a lost Polish village.

Thanks to the success of *Paper Clips*, the documentary film about the project released in 2004, paper clips continue to come in to the school a decade after the original 1998 class graduated. They stopped counting after some 30 million paper clips had come in.

The *Paper Clips Project* has an enduring legacy for the children of Whitwell, says Hooper.

"A greater number of them go to college."

Students from the initial Grade 8 class have now graduated college.

Hooper says the project has, "given them a lot of pride in their community, which is not something we had before."

Hooper and her school's librarian have since visited the Auschwitz and Birkenau concentration camps.

"I would never go back," she says. "I couldn't handle going back."

She has visited Jerusalem twice.

She went five years ago to study at Yad Vashem for three weeks, and her most recent trip was to make a presentation about the One Clip Foundation, in whose development she assisted.

One Clip at a Time presents the *Paper Clips Project* to Grade 5 students and "helps them be involved in community service and be aware of their actions."

Hooper says her Ottawa speech will centre on "community involvement, caring about others and the *Paper Clips Project* in general."

Emphasizing the influence of each individual to affect change, she adds, "No matter what your circumstances are, you owe it to your creator and yourself to be involved in repairing the world, *Tikkun Olam*."

The Women's Campaign luncheon, celebrating 36 years, is Sunday, September 21, 11:30 am, at Congregation Beth Shalom.

The event is for women only.

Tickets are \$36 for adults and \$18 for students.

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Planning a Jewish future for our community

The carefree days of summer are over. Rosh Hashanah is around the corner – a time when we reflect on past accomplishments and the challenges of the year to come.

There is much that has transpired in the community over the past year and many exciting developments are on the horizon.

In August, our Board of Directors participated in a long overdue retreat, examining how to improve on the Federation's performance in attending to the needs of the community.

Among the many things discussed, the Board reviewed the strengths and weaknesses of our new governance structure, now entering its fourth year. While committee structures appear to work reasonably well, what is evident is the need for community volunteers of all ages with fresh ideas to bring to our various committees. I would encourage anyone who may be considering getting involved, or wanting to know how to get involved, to please contact Benita Siemiatycki at our Jewish Ottawa InfoCentre at 613-798-4696, ext. 227 or bsiemiatycki@jewishottawa.com. Benita will advise and direct you to where your participation might be best suited.

With declining enrolment at Hillel Academy and Yitzhak Rabin High School, the challenges facing our Jewish school system in



Federation Report

Jonathan
Freedman
Chair

meeting its operational and budgetary requirements are ever-increasing. The Board has confirmed the need to revitalize Jewish education and has made Jewish education its primary focus for the upcoming year.

A bold new direction for Jewish education is under way. Over the course of the next two to three years, Hillel Academy and Yitzhak Rabin will look for ways to cooperate in order to improve both schools. Rabin will be taking over a wing on the second floor of the building currently occupied by Hillel Academy at 31 Nadolny Sachs Private on the Jewish Community Campus. It is our hope that, by January 2009, Yitzhak Rabin High School will be fully operational on the Campus.

As well, Cheder Rambam recently vacated its school located on Esquimaux Avenue and is expected to take up residence in the basement of the Hillel Academy building by late September. Cheder Rambam will operate

independently in its new location.

All parties involved in this transition recognize there will be challenges at the front end of this new arrangement. But I doubt anyone would argue that, if we make this work, the long-term benefits will outweigh any short-term challenges we may face.

On the academic side of change, Hillel Academy and Yitzhak Rabin High School have hired Donna Palmer-Dodds as the new "head of school" for both institutions. Revitalizing a Jewish day school is part and parcel for Palmer-Dodds, who spent three years as co-principal of the Vancouver Talmud Torah where there were 475 students and a faculty and administrative staff of 75. Wendy Waxman and Sara Breiner will continue as vice-principals at Hillel Academy while Cynthia Bates joins Rabbi Howard Finkelstein as principals at Yitzhak Rabin.

Our university students will be re-energized with the addition of Alana Kayfetz, the new director of our Jewish student association, Hillel Ottawa (formerly JSA-Hillel). Alana is hard at work meeting students, reconfiguring the space at Hillel House, organizing seats for students at High Holiday services and planning Hillel's first Shabbat dinner of the year (held this past Friday evening). For more information on Hillel Ottawa activities contact Alana at

director@hillelottawa.ca.

Jeff Bradshaw, Federation's new director of planning is no stranger to the Federation system. Jeff worked as the managing director of programming for Vancouver Hillel Foundation, as program co-ordinator for CJPAC (Canadian Jewish Public Affairs Committee) and as the acting regional director Canadian Jewish Congress, Pacific Region.

Lisa Krug, co-ordinator for the Shoah (Holocaust) committee of Ottawa, will add to her busy portfolio by working with Jeff on the community's allocation process.

And last, but by no means least, is the 2009 Annual UJA Campaign, the most critical component of all our endeavours, launched last week with Mariane Pearl, widow of slain Wall Street Journalist Daniel Pearl. This year's campaign goal is to reach \$5.2 million and many stimulating programs are planned. Our 2009 Campaign slogan is *I want a Jewish Future*. When sitting in shul over the High Holidays and reflecting on your life, I ask you to consider the Jewish future of your community. If you want a Jewish Future for your children, grandchildren, community and Israel, the onus is on each of us to ensure that happens.

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Federation and my family, I wish you all a Shana Tova!

What's new? Investing Rosh Hashanah traditions with newness

Tradition is very much a part of what we will be doing in the next little while. Apples and honey, shofar, prayer, forgiveness, are all part of that tradition.

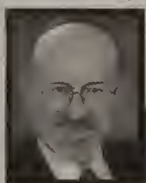
Tradition is nice, but it is also problematic. Something becomes a tradition by virtue of its being repeated; in this case, from generation to generation. There is a sense of security and comfort in knowing what to do, in knowing what is coming, and in the awareness that this is what our parents and grandparents did, and what our children and grandchildren will hopefully do.

But there is a problem, and not a small one. We must not be human if we did not feel that all this is "same old, same old," with nothing new. We do refer to this time period as the New Year, but in reality everything we do is old. For those who like old, as in age old, that is not a problem. But for those who are tired of the old, it is a daunting issue.

How do we address this? Dismissing it as the complaint of those, who do not get it, hardly solves anything. Dismantling the tradition and starting with a brand new set of traditions probably creates more problems than it solves. By creating a new set of traditions, we would be detaching from those who *bring* us to this point.

Is there anything in the middle between those two alternatives? Perhaps. How about looking at the components and seeing if we can invest them with newness? It may be worth a try.

Apples and Honey – Most everyone does this, but without knowing why. Actually, the



From the pulpit

Rabbi Reuven P.
Bulka
Machzikel Hadas

apple is a reference to Mount Sinai, which, according to some, has an apple configuration. Honey is that which we use to sweeten whatever needs to be sweetened.

So, this year, we could see apples and honey as a challenge to sweeten, to bring happily alive, any or all of our Jewish affirmations. This could be the topic of discussion at the Rosh Hashanah table – how to add spiritual calories to the apples and honey dish.

Shofar – The shofar is intended as a wake up call. We often hear this in the lead up to the sounding of the shofar. The words, "wake up," by now have a familiar ring, but we remain at a loss about the precise meaning of this. Wake up from what, wake up to what?

We can help ourselves in this by looking at what component of our lives can use improvement. We can even start with the elementary sense to wake up, that is, waking up every day a bit earlier and using that time to study more of what defines us and infuses us with responsibility.

Prayer – Prayer is what is most critical in the Days of Awe. We pray as usual, but we pray more, and we pray longer. But do we pray better? One suggestion for newness


would be to have a prayer focus for this time. That is, select one of the many prayers (*Avinu Malkaynu, U'Netaneh Tokef, Ashamnu*, etc.) and make it the focus of scrutiny for this time of the year. Instead of merely covering the prayers, uncovering and discovering would be a fresh and meaningful approach.

Forgiveness – Each year, we go through the motions of asking forgiveness. We can bring newness to this by taking forgiveness very seriously. We could take the extra "wake up" time and hone in on the forgiveness needs within ourselves. Forgiveness, by the way, does not necessarily imply that one has

sinned. In the larger sense, it means that there are many things which we could do better. The range is endless, from being less impatient, less agitated, less alert to others, to becoming more caring, more sensitive, more kind.

And instead of trying to conquer this entire area with one sweep of the brush, we could make one specific relationship the subject of intense attention, be it parents, spouse, children, co-workers, etc.

What's new this year? We can all answer this in our own unique ways, within the comfortable parameters of our hallowed tradition. Happy NEW year to you all.



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Prime minister chooses Sukkot for election day

The federal election campaign officially began last week after Prime Minister Stephen Harper's visit to the governor general. The election will be on Tuesday, October 14. Although federal elections are traditionally on Mondays, this election will be on a Tuesday because Monday that week is Thanksgiving Day, a legal holiday.

The day Harper chose for the election happens to be the first day of Sukkot, a day when observant Jews will not be able to participate in the democratic process. Although, as both Canadian Jewish Congress and B'nai Brith Canada have pointed out, Jews who observe the festival won't lose their vote. They'll have ample opportunity to vote in advance polls.

But there's more to being part of the process than just voting. Observant Jews will be denied the opportunity of staffing polling stations or of helping their candidate get out the vote on election day. Observant Jews who are active in campaigns may be denied the opportunity to celebrate or commiserate at their candidates' headquarters as the returns come in on election night. And observant Jews who like to stay home and watch the coverage on TV may have to miss out because they won't turn on their television set on a holy day.

All of those things, and more, are part



Acting Editor

Michael Regenstreif

and parcel of participating in our democratic society. A religious holiday of any major faith that keeps citizens from full participation in the process should not be used as an election day.

There was no necessity for Harper to have called the election when he did. He could have waited until he actually lost the confidence of the House of Commons; something he had pledged to do when his government passed legislation fixing the election date for every four years unless the government loses a non-confidence vote in the House.

Or, the prime minister could have set the election date for two weeks later when the Jewish holidays would not have been a factor.

A hearty Mazal Tov to everyone con-

nected to the Soloway Jewish Community Centre. This week marks the 10th anniversary of when the Soloway JCC moved into the brand new Joseph and Rose Ages Family Building. In addition to its first class fitness facilities, the Soloway JCC provides superb programming for all sectors of the community, and for all ages, from infants to seniors. The Soloway JCC is something we can all be very proud of.

This is a community-wide edition of the *Bulletin* – one of two that we do each year – so many of you reading this column are not regular subscribers. We hope you're enjoying the paper and will want to receive all 19 issues we put out over the course of the year. There's always a lot to read in the *Ottawa Jewish Bulletin* with news stories and features from within the community and beyond, and in our lively columns.

We've got a special offer to encourage new subscribers. Until October 31, you can subscribe for just \$25 per year for one, two or three years. Save up to \$15 over three years.

Current subscribers can take advantage of the offer too, even if your subscription

won't expire for a long time. We'll be happy to extend your subscription at the special rate for up to three years. But act soon, the special deal expires on October 31.

I'll remind you that we're always interested in your responses to the columns and articles that appear in the *Bulletin* or on other issues of concern to the Jewish community.

You can send e-mail to me at mregenstreif@ottawajewishbulletin.com. You can also fax us at 613-798-4730, drop off your letters at the *Bulletin* office, or mail them to us at 21 Nadolny Sachs Private, Ottawa, ON K2A 1R9.

We're pleased to introduce another new column this issue. Liana Shlien's *Campus Life* debuts on page 52 and will focus on Jewish student life on Ottawa-area university campuses. The column is scheduled for the first issue of the month during the school year. Liana is a fourth year journalism student at Carleton University and worked at the *Bulletin* over the summer as our staff reporter. She's continuing to work part time with us now that classes are back in session.

Finally, *Shana Tova* – Happy New Year – from all of us at the *Ottawa Jewish Bulletin*.

Life goes on normally in the town of Dachau

When you visit a place like Dachau, you go there with very particular ideas about what to expect.

You prepare yourself for predictable feelings of sadness and anger and disgust.

Indeed, the main purpose of a visit to Dachau nowadays – the reason why it still remains open for visitors – is to confront and to memorialize the atrocities that took place there, so as to better inoculate against others taking place in future.

This purpose is made explicit in one of the many stark memorials found throughout the grounds of the former concentration camp. Upon a wall behind a tomb holding the ashes of one unknown victim, the words "Never Again" are spelled out in large capital letters in five different languages.

When my family visited Dachau this summer, I anticipated the likely disturbing nature of the experience. But what was most unsettling was something I did not expect to find there.

Dachau is not only the name of the Nazis' first-opened and longest-operating concentration camp, it is also the name of the pleasant Bavarian town just outside Munich – where the concentration camp was built.

There's now a suburban strip mall not a five-minute drive away from the former camp. You can have lunch there at the local Dachau Subway franchise. You can



Alan Echenberg

shop for groceries at one of Dachau's big clean supermarkets, or for home furnishings at Dachau's large, shiny warehouse outlet.

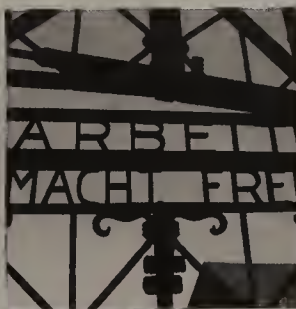
If you withdraw some Euros from a conveniently located ATM or buy a pair of Birkenstock sandals at the local *Siemes Schuhcenter* bargain wholesaler, you get receipts benignly printed with the foul name of the town in which you have made your transaction.

I've now done the research and, yes, the town had the name for more than a thousand years before the concentration camp was built. Dachau has a history independent of the Holocaust, and tens of thousands of residents, many of them suburban commuters with jobs in Munich.

But still.

You'd think someone in the local town hall might have recommended a name change sometime over the past six decades. How can anyone possibly admit with any civic pride they live in Dachau?

How can that name now be associated



The front gate to the Nazi concentration camp at Dachau.

(Photo: Isaac Slider-Echenberg)

with the sale of shoes and sofas and turkey subs?

I thought of this again during our tour of the former concentration camp, which houses an impressive, comprehensive exhibition of the site's brutal history.

The exhibition includes archival film footage from 1945 of local Dachau residents touring the recently liberated concentration camp and reacting with horror to what they found.

Left unanswered by the footage is how any resident of Dachau town in 1945 could be plausibly ignorant of what had been going on for 12 years in the concentration camp down the road.

Then again, an even more disturbing thought: Maybe it was all too possible for life just outside the camp walls to carry on as normal.

We visited Dachau this summer with our children, the one anomaly in an otherwise fun-centred European vacation.

To be honest, we were worried the experience might be too intense for them, and were relieved when our preschooler slept through the entire visit. But, to the eight-year-old and the 11-year-old, the tour was more eye-opening than books and school lessons about the Holocaust could ever possibly be.

From witnessing with our own eyes the cruel, deceptive words of the famous Nazi lie, *Arbeit macht frei* (work will free you), built right into the front gate of the concentration camp, to walking through the sombre barracks, showers and the roll-call square, where prisoners were forced to stand for hours on end, to seeing the badges they were made to wear and the instruments of punishment with which they were attacked, the visceral experience of actually being in Dachau will remain with us for years to come.

And as life carries on as normal in the strip malls outside, it is important to never forget what happened within those camp walls.

Alan Echenberg is TVOntario's Parliamentary bureau chief.

Shana Tova!

The Board of Directors and staff of the Jewish Federation of Ottawa wish everyone a happy and healthy New Year.



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Around the Jewish world

McCartney to play in Israel

(JTA) – Ex-Beatle Paul McCartney will perform in Israel 43 years after government officials banned the *Fab Four*.

His September 25 concert in Tel Aviv's HaYarkon Park is expected to be one of the largest in Israeli history.

The show is part of a world tour by McCartney comprising more than 100 shows.

Earlier this year, Israeli Ambassador to Britain Ron Prosor invited McCartney and Ringo Starr to perform in Israel for the country's 60th birthday.

In 1965, Israeli government officials denied the Beatles a permit to perform out of fear their music would corrupt the morals of the nation's youth.

Schalit talks with Hamas break down

(JTA) – Talks on a prisoner swap for kidnapped Israeli soldier Gilad Schalit have been frozen, a Hamas leader said.

Senior Hamas leader Mahmoud Zahar said that talks have been halted since Israel will not agree to release prisoners who killed Israelis.

Talks had been stalled as well because Gaza Strip border crossings with Israel and Egypt remain closed.

Schalit was captured in a cross-border raid two years ago and is believed to be held in Gaza.

Remains of ancient Jerusalem wall unearthed

(JTA) – The remains of a city wall of Jerusalem from the time of the Second Temple were uncovered.

The recent discovery is part of a year-and-a-half-long excavation underway on Mount Zion.

The 2,100-year-old wall was destroyed during the Great Revolt against the Romans that began in 66 CE. It was previously uncovered by an American archeologist at the end of the 19th century.

The project is part of the master plan for the Jerusalem City Wall National Park, which will preserve the region around the Old City of Jerusalem as an open area for tourism. A promenade is planned to run around the newly uncovered sections of the wall.

"The fact that after 2,100 years the remains of the first city wall were preserved to a height of nearly 10 feet is amazing," said Yehiel Zeligler, the excavation director, on behalf of the Israel Antiquities Authority.

"This is one of the most beautiful and complete sections of construction in the Hasmonean building style to be found in Jerusalem."

Also uncovered were the remains of a city wall from the Byzantine period, built on top of the Second Temple wall.

The excavation is being conducted with the Nature and Parks Authority and with financial support provided by the Ir David Foundation.

Terrorists reportedly targeted El Al in Toronto

(JTA) – A terror cell monitored the movements of El Al crew members in Toronto.

On September 3, Israel's Channel 2 reported that the terrorists' plans had been thwarted.

Israeli security officials went on higher alert and the Shin Bet security service ordered El Al, Israel's national airline, and two other Israeli airlines to take new precautions overseas.

The discovery comes a few months after U.S. television networks reported that American intelligence had caught a Hezbollah cell collecting information on Israeli targets in Canada. El Al in the past has been targeted for terrorist attacks.

Entire Quebec town invited to wedding

(JTA) – A Jewish couple invited an entire Quebec town to their wedding.

The couple, Hana Sellem and Moshe Barouk, invited hundreds of residents of Sainte-Agathe-des-Monts to their wedding September 2 as a gesture of goodwill after a series of anti-Semitic attacks in the town this summer.

Sellem, 26, an immigrant from France who follows Lubavitch-Chabad teachings, is vice-principal of a Jewish teacher's college in the town.

The couple printed wedding guides in French and English explaining the ceremony. About 300 residents attended.

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Brian Pearl
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**Dennis Ross will be guest speaker
at the Ottawa JNF Negev Dinner
at Museum of Civilization
on November 24**

On behalf of Ottawa JNF, best wishes to all for a Shana Tova, and may the New Year 5769 bring good health and peace, here and in Israel.

Plans are moving ahead well for the Ottawa Negev Dinner to be held on Monday, November 24 honouring Barbara Crook and Dan Greenberg.

This year's Dinner will be held in an incomparable venue – the Great Hall of the Canadian Museum of Civilization. The kosher meal will be prepared by Creative Kosher Catering of Ottawa.

This promises to be a very special occasion in a unique setting. Please join us in saluting our very worthy honourees, Barbara and Dan. The invitations will be going out by mail very soon and, because the seating is limited, an early RSVP is the only way to be certain of obtaining tickets.

In keeping with the 60th anniversary of the independence of Israel, our guest speaker will be Ambassador Dennis Ross, the well-known and widely respected author and expert on the Middle East. He served as the Director for Policy Planning in the State Department under President George H.W. Bush and special Middle East co-ordinator under President Bill Clinton.

The envoy and chief negotiator under both presidents, Ross was integral in shaping U.S. involvement in the Middle East peace process over a period of more than 12 years, playing a leading role in the Middle East peace process and in dealing directly with the negotiations. Most recently, he has become a key adviser to the Democratic presidential nominee, Senator Barack Obama. The evening could provide an unmatched opportunity to hear first-hand about the early plans for the region of a very new American administration.

This High Holiday season, JNF Canada is sponsoring a very special project through Adamit Park to perpetuate the memory of Eldad Regev z"l and Ehud Goldwasser z"l by connecting their names to the land that they loved and defended. A beautiful scenic route in the Upper Galilee close to the border with Lebanon, built by JNF to be safe from enemy sniper fire, will be named in their honour and special educational and rest stops will be built along the way.

Adamit Park, in the western Upper Galilee, is about one kilometre south of the Lebanese border and is close by where the kidnapping of Eldad and Ehud took place. This impressive scenic drive in Adamit Park will join the many such drives JNF has built for the enjoyment of visitors to its forests and parks. Donations can be made by calling our office at the above number.

On a daily basis you can plant trees for all occasions. An attractive card is sent to the recipient. To order, call the JNF office (613.798.2411).



Weizmann Science Canada to hold stem cell symposium September 16

By Dr. Norman Barwin
President, Ottawa Chapter
Weizmann Science Canada
Professor Tsvee Lapidot of the Weizmann Institute of Science in Israel, a world-renowned researcher on stem cells, will be a featured guest speaker at a public symposium presented by the Ottawa Chapter of Weizmann Science Canada entitled *Stem Cell Research: Issues and Opportunities* to be held September 16.

Lapidot will discuss his important work dealing with how blood stem cells migrate to and from bone marrow and how this knowledge could pave the way toward advancements in treating leukemia and in bone marrow transplants.

Born in Israel, Lapidot received his B.Sc. from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and his M.Sc. and Ph.D. degrees from the Weizmann Institute of Science. In 1990, he moved to Toronto where he spent four years as a postdoctoral fellow at the Hospital for Sick Children. He then returned to the Weizmann Institute's Department of Immunology as a senior scientist. He was appointed associate professor in 2001 and holds the Edith Aronoff Stein Professorial Chair in Stem Cell Research in the Department

of Immunology.

In order to overcome the short survival time of stem cells in the lab, Lapidot developed a functional model for both normal and cancerous human stem cells and looked at their similarities and differences. Eventually, he hopes to use his models to test new therapies against various forms of leukemia and other blood disorders in order to improve the outcome of clinical stem cell transplantation.

In another development, Lapidot's group has also been examining how migration patterns are affected by adhesion factors that anchor stem cells to the bone marrow, as well as by enzymes that degrade the adhesion interactions which anchor stem cells in their bone marrow niche. They are pursuing key players in the migration and development of malignant human stem cells

to aid in understanding how cancer spreads through the body.

Lapidot will be joined by Ottawa experts Michael Rudnicki and Zubin Master of the Ottawa Health Research Institute. The symposium will be moderated by Dr. Harry Atkins, stem cell transplant physician of the Ottawa Hospital and medical director of the Regenerative Medicine Program of the Ottawa Health Research Institute.

Chaim Weizmann, a noted chemist who later became the first President of Israel believed in science as a cornerstone for the development of modern societies. That belief developed into the Weizmann Institute of Science. Today the Institute is world-renowned as a centre of excellence for cutting-edge research and innovation in the natural and life sciences. More than 2,600 scientists, technicians and

students are working on more than 1,000 projects with four main goals: to protect the environment, to fight disease and hunger, to expand our knowledge of math and science, and to probe physics and the universe.

Weizmann Science Canada joins the other international Weizmann Committees with the mission to raise awareness for the outstanding work being done by the scientists, to raise funds to support the high calibre of research at the Institute and to promote education in math and science at all levels in continuity with Chaim Weizmann's vision.

Stem Cell Research: Issues and Opportunities will take place Tuesday, September 16, 7:30 pm, at Library and Archives Canada. Admission is free but reservations are required. Call 613-236-3391 or e-mail susan@weizmann.ca.

Happy Rosh Hashanah

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Hillel Lodge at work on waiting list and maintaining Jewish identity

By Liana Shlien

With 69 people currently on the waiting list for admittance to the Bess and Moe Greenberg Family Hillel Lodge, the Lodge is looking at ways of decreasing waiting times while balancing its Jewish identity with its responsibilities to the Ontario system.

Of the 69 people on the waiting list, five are not Jewish. Eighty-two per cent of the Lodge's current residents are Jewish.

Before 2006, standard wait times for admission were six to eight months; now they can be upwards of two years.

The admission process to all long-term care centres is co-ordinated through the Community Care Access Centre (CCAC), which determines eligibility and administers waiting lists.

"It's first-come-first-served on the list," says Lodge executive director Stephen Schneiderman, who advises families to plan ahead and jump-start the process by applying to the CCAC before it becomes necessary.

Unfortunately, the process is not so simple, as there is a complex web of mitigating factors that affect an accepted applicant's waiting time, including choice of accommodation and the level of care they require.

Complicating matters, since April 2006, the Champlain Local Health Integration Network (LHIN), which is responsible for long-term care beds in the Ottawa area, has been trying to alleviate the bed crisis in Ontario hospitals through the Alternate Level of Care (ALC) Crisis Admission program.

Accordingly, the LHIN designates two days a week as ALC days, on which the CCAC will allocate a patient waiting in hospital to any long-term care facility with a vacancy. These admissions bypass that facility's own waiting list.

"Our waiting list takes a back seat on those days and that's what's causing the Lodge's Jewish population to drop below what was always over 90 per cent," says new board president Jeff Miller.

"Our primary obligation is to provide service to the Ottawa Jewish community," Schneiderman says. He describes the situation as "very disconcerting" and speaks of "a gradual erosion of a critical mass."

The year ALC was first implemented, the Lodge admitted 12 non-Jewish residents from hospital, says Joanna Abrams, director of program and support services and co-ordinator of social work.

"It's a critical element affecting waiting times."

Since January, Hillel Lodge has had to admit five acute-care patients from hospital.

Both Abrams and Schneiderman noted that these non-Jewish residents have tended to not transfer out to their original choice of home owing to the optimal care they receive at the Lodge.

"The trend continues. There's going to be more from acute care, and that's going to drastically change the profile," says Abrams.

In July, however, the CCAC launched a three-month initiative, the Preferred Placement Pilot Project. Under the terms of the project, on hospital admission days, someone on a waiting list staying at a nursing home can be switched into their first choice facility while the hospital patient would be admitted to the transferred resident's original nursing home.

Abrams says Hillel Lodge has not yet had the chance to experiment with the project.

"I can see this may make a small difference, but it's not going to solve the bigger picture," she said.

The CCAC will decide whether or not to extend the project at a meeting this month.

Hillel Lodge, which moved to the Jewish Community Campus eight years ago, is designated as a 1B facility with culture as a priority. It is the only long-term care centre in Ottawa catering specifically to members of the Jewish community through its strictly kosher food and culturally sensitive programming. However, the LHIN's priority categories regarding urgent placement for clients in crisis and the ALC program override that priority, says Miller.

Though construction of the Lodge was largely funded by private donors and the Jewish community, it is a non-profit home and is regulated by the government, which means many matters are out of its control.

"There are so many misconceptions about admissions and wait times, rumours abound," says Abrams.

The Lodge offers what Miller calls "top notch care, above the government's minimum standards at all levels." He says providing only kosher food means its food costs are about 30 per cent higher than other long-term care facilities, costs which government funding does not cover.

Last year, the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care turned down the Lodge's application for the funding of 21 new beds which would be housed in unfinished space on the main floor.

"Our Board is very proactive," Miller says, noting that they are constantly pursuing political avenues to obtain the funding to open the new beds.

The death of Orthodox cantoring: Blame yeshivas and Rabbi Carlebach

By Sue Fishkoff

PISCATAWAY, N.J.

(JTA) – Sitting in a meeting room in the Radisson Hotel here, 15 Orthodox cantors listen reverentially to a 1954 recording of the great Israeli Cantor Leib Glantz singing the haunting *Selichot* service.

The album is somewhat scratched and recorded in mono, but the powerful, plaintive voice mesmerizes the cantors. One or two moan with emotion.

It is not an inappropriate sound at last month's annual conference of the Cantorial Council of America, the professional association for Orthodox cantors – the few that are left, that is.

While the Reform movement's American Conference of Cantors boasts 450 members and the Conservative Cantors Assembly approaches 550, just 125 cantors belong to the Orthodox association.

Even that figure is deceptive. Many are retired or hold very part-time positions. Almost none make a living at the cantorate, and even those employed full time carry business cards with the names of real estate offices and computer companies that tell the real story of how they make a living.

Orthodox congregations in the United States just don't hire cantors.

Cantor Bernard Beer, the director of the Belz School of Jewish Music at Yeshiva University, says that fewer than 5 per cent of U.S. Orthodox synagogues have cantors. That's not the case in Europe or Canada, he says, where Orthodox cantors are more widely used.

A generation ago, there were more than 30 Orthodox cantors in Brooklyn; today there are three. Manhattan also has three.

It's a far cry from the golden age of *chazzanut* – or *chazzanus*, as most of the Orthodox cantors would refer to their leadership of services – when the great cantors of Central and Eastern Europe



Cantor Bernard Beer, the director of the Belz School of Jewish Music, says fewer than 5 per cent of U.S. Orthodox congregations have cantors.

(Photo: Yeshiva University)

set sail for America in the years between the First and Second World Wars.

"Yossele Rosenblatt, Mordechai Herschman, Zavel Kwartin – they all came around 1921," Cantor Beer says, listing some of the big names in the business. "They made big money. It was the means of entertainment for Orthodox Jews."

The 1930s Depression put an end to big salaries, but even into the mid-1960s Cantor Beer says he'd open Jewish newspapers before the High Holidays and see "pictures of all the chazzans, in their high hats, this one singing at this shul, that one at the other."

The 1960s, with its anti-establishment ethos and changing musical tastes, affected the Orthodox can-

torate as much as the Conservative and Reform, with an added caveat: The congregations were filling with yeshiva and day school graduates who could lead services on their own.

"Here in New York, volunteer laymen have taken over the services," says Cantor Beer, who recalls having "no problem" finding work when he became a cantor in 1965.

Outside New York, he says, most Orthodox congregations are too small to afford cantors.

Another problem is the increasing popularity of the music of the late "Singing Rabbi," Shlomo Carlebach, whose tunes have permeated Orthodox synagogues and supplanted traditional *musach*.

(Continued on page 13)

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Conservative movement's kosher initiative launches High Holidays drive

By Sue Fishkoff

SAN FRANCISCO (JTA) – Leaders of the Conservative movement's ethical kashrut certification program are taking their campaign to the next level.

They are inviting Conservative rabbis to sign onto the Hekhsheh Tzedek initiative, meeting with at least one Orthodox kosher certification agency and making initial overtures to selected kosher food producers that might seek the new certification.

"We are moving this forward in the Jewish community in a very powerful yet sensitive fashion," said Rabbi Morris Allen of Beth Jacob Congregation in Mendota Heights, Minnesota, Hekhsheh Tzedek's project director.

"Doors have opened," he said, since the Hekhsheh Tzedek guidelines were released July 31, outlining five areas of ethical and environmental standards against which kosher food producers are to be measured. "People want to talk to us more."

E-mails were sent the week of August 25 to the 1,600 members of the Rabbinical Assembly, the professional association of Conservative rabbis, inviting them to partner with Hekhsheh Tzedek in a High Holidays drive.

The e-mail asked rabbis to address Hekhsheh Tzedek in their High Holidays sermons, and includes a model sermon and teaching materials. It also commits those who sign on to buy products carrying the Hekhsheh Tzedek seal once it is applied, a process that could begin as early as January, according to project co-chair Rabbi Michael Siegel of Anshe Emet Synagogue in Chicago.

"There's been a very positive response," Rabbi Siegel said. "Rabbis have been looking for a way to get more involved."

The materials are being made available to rabbis from other denominations, although the e-mail was sent only to Conservative rabbis.

Rabbi Barry Starr of Temple Israel in Sharon, Massachusetts, received the appeal August 29. Noting that he has already done "a lot of outreach" about Hekhsheh Tzedek within his congregation, Starr said he would "mention" it during the holidays, but it "will not be the sole theme of my sermon."

"Many of my people are already not buying products from Agriprocessors," he said, referring to the kosher meat company whose plant in Postville, Iowa, was the target of a massive immigration raid in May.

Rabbi David Glickman of Congregation Shearith Israel in Dallas told JTA that while he supports Hekhsheh Tzedek's focus on the ethical dimensions of kosher food production, he does not know what his 1,200-member congregation will decide to do



Rabbi Morris Allen says the Hekhsheh Tzedek initiative is moving forward "in a very powerful yet sensitive fashion."

(JTA photo)

about the partnership invitation.

"We've come out publicly in support of the concept and for the need for ethical treatment of workers in factories," he said. But, he added, "It's important not to rush to judgment when accusing any particular company."

The Hekhsheh Tzedek guidelines are the result of two years of work by a Conservative-sponsored commission that came together after a 2006 investigation of workers' complaints at Agriprocessors.

Since the guidelines were made public, Rabbi Allen said project leaders and colleagues from Jewish Community Action, a social justice group based in St. Paul, Minnesota, have been talking to "people inside the kosher industry," including rabbis from Orthodox certification agencies and kosher food companies that might be the first candidates for the Hekhsheh Tzedek seal. The seal's design will be released soon, he said.

The commission is testing the metrics developed by KLD Research and Analytics, Inc., an independent investment research firm, to measure how companies behave in five categories: wages and benefits, employee health and safety, product development and animal welfare, corporate transparency and environmental impact. They are test-marketing the standards with one kosher food producer.

An unintended result of the Agriprocessors raid, Rabbi Allen said, was that it opened a dialogue about what kosher means, and brought the politics and ethics of Jewish

(Continued on page 13)

Few young men are on Orthodox cantorial track

(Continued from page 11)
or cantorial chanting.

The demise of Orthodox cantors has been accompanied by a rising interest in concert *chazzanut*. Some cantors supplement their pulpit incomes by performing onstage. The most famous, such as Yitzchak Helfgot and Moshe Stem, command top dollar at venues including New York's Lincoln Center.

"People who say they don't like *chazzanut* will go

to a Helfgot concert," laments Joel Kaplan, the president of the Cantorial Council of America and the cantor at Congregation Beth Shalom in Lawrence, New York.

Most cantors don't see the popularity of cantorial music onstage spilling over into shul.

"I see the handwriting on the wall," says Ben Zion Miller, the longtime cantor of Young Israel/Beth-El of Bor-

ough Park in Brooklyn, who says his own concert schedule has dwindled rather than grown in the past few years.

"I'd like to see shuls turn around and start hiring cantors. I'd like to say it will get them more members, but I know that's not true," he says. "I only hope that by the time they turn around, there will be cantors to fill the positions."

Few young men are going into the Orthodox cantoriate.

The Belz School, which has 150 students, graduates just one or two cantors each year. Most of its students are not on the cantorial track.

The few who are on that track are highly motivated.

Berel Zucker, 27, received his diploma last year and is now the cantor of the Chabad Jewish Center of Southampton, New York. Not only is *chazzanut* in his blood – his father was a cantor, and his entire family has musical tal-

ent, he says – but as a Lubavitcher, he looks at the cantoriate as his personal *shlichus*, or mission in life.

"It's a powerful tool for bringing Jews close to their tradition," he says.

Even Cantor Zucker serves his congregation only once every three weeks. He cobbles together a living by preparing Bar Mitzvah students, giving voice lessons and leading services in other synagogues on his weekends off. He also sings at weddings.

In a bid to stimulate interest in cantorial skills, the Belz School and the Cantorial Council of America have begun sponsoring workshops to teach *nusach* to laymen, and to introduce the public to great cantorial music.

The school runs Internet courses for students who

can't move to New York and tries to inculcate an appreciation of the cantoriate among the rabbinical students who take its classes.

In 2006, Cantor Beer and Cantor Sherwood Goffin, who has been serving Manhattan's Lincoln Square Synagogue for 43 years, released *Be a Baal Tefillah*, a CD that teaches laymen the Shabbat service in both Ashkenazic and Sephardic pronunciation.

Despite the difficulties, Cantor Zucker says he would never discourage cantorial students.

"Some of the people who come to me don't have great talent and probably won't become a cantor," he acknowledges. "But who am I to stand in front of someone's passion?"

Related story appears on page 34.

Reform rabbis embrace ethical kashrut

(JTA) – The Reform movement's rabbinical group endorsed the Conservative movement's ethical kosher initiative.

The Board of Trustees of the Central Conference of American Rabbis, the Reform movement's rabbinical association, resolved last month to explore ways to cooperate with the initiative, known as Hekhsher Tzedek.

The conference urged producers of kosher meat to

adhere to the highest ethical standards, applauded the Conservative movement for integrating ethical concerns into kashrut and encouraged Reform Jews to consider the initiative's guidelines in making dietary choices.

"Those who keep kosher, including the growing number of Reform Jews who are embracing the observance of kashrut, should not be forced to choose between their ritual observance and

their ethical values," the Reform conference said.

Spurred in large measure by the continuing controversy over Agriprocessors, the Iowa meat producer that was the target of a massive immigration raid in May, Conservative Rabbi Morris Allen has pushed Hekhsher Tzedek as a supplementary certification attesting that kosher food products are produced in an ethical manner.

Rabbi Allen has reached

out to Conservative rabbis to seek their endorsement of the initiative, which is a joint project of the movement's rabbinical and congregational arms. Among the Orthodox, the initiative has provoked unease from those who believe it modifies the notion of kashrut.

Agudath Israel of America, an umbrella group of fervently Orthodox Jews, is expected to release a statement shortly criticizing the initiative.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Mira Sucharov discusses issues of kashrut and Hekhsher Tzedek in her Values, Ethics, Community column on page 67 of this issue of the *Bulletin*.

Kosher initiative

(Continued from page 12)
dietary laws to the pages of secular newspapers.

"People are really talking about Judaism and dietary habits and the importance of finding kosher food they're comfortable buying," he said. "It's a very powerful thing that is happening."

Rabbi Menachem Creditor of Congregation Netivot Shalom in Berkeley, California, was happy to receive

last week's e-mail.

"I was relieved to see that the talk has translated into action," he said.

Saying he is "curious" to see how Conservative rabbis will respond, Rabbi Creditor wonders what the movement-wide effect will be if large numbers of synagogues refuse to join the effort.

"This," he said, "may be a mirror moment for the Conservative movement."

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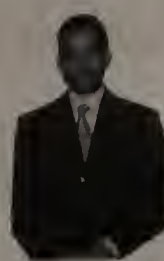
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Israeli economy strong despite political turmoil

(Continued from page 2)

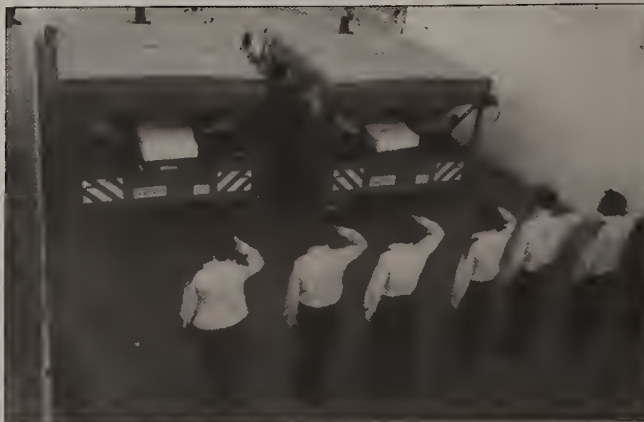
Damascus and Ankara, the parties announced the renewal of peace talks.

The big question was whether, in return for the Golan Heights, Syria would detach itself from the Iranian orbit.

Indeed, Israel's main strategic concern in 5768 was not peacemaking, but Iran's assumed drive for nuclear weapons.

Israel's intense lobbying effort to have the international community take tougher measures against Iran suffered a major setback last December when a U.S. National Intelligence Estimate found that Iran had suspended a covert nuclear weapons program in 2003.

Israeli intelligence officials argued that the program had since resumed and intensified, but as the year went on it became increasingly apparent to Israeli officials that the United States – and the West – was moving further away from confrontation with Iran.



An Israeli military convoy carries the bodies of Ehud Goldwasser and Eldad Regev from the Israel-Lebanon border on July 16, 2008.
(Photo: Brian Hendler)

With sanctions having failed to halt Iran's suspected nuclear weapons program, Israeli officials' pronouncements about Iran grew harsher.

Transportation Minister Shaul Mofaz declared that an Israeli attack against Iran was becoming inevitable.

"Other options are disappearing," he said.

In June, the Israeli Air

Force carried out large-scale maneuvers simulating an aerial attack on Iranian nuclear installations, stoking fears that if the international community failed to act, Israel might launch a pre-emptive strike.

All the while, many members of the Knesset and the Israeli intelligentsia worried that Olmert was too distracted by the corruption investigations to focus sufficiently on the Iranian threat. Calls for Olmert's ouster grew along with the investigations against him.

Olmert was questioned for allegedly receiving a substantial discount on a house in Jerusalem in return for helping contractors get building permits for other projects. He was investigated as well for allegedly trying to tilt the terms of a tender for the privatization of Bank Leumi to help his friend Frank Lowy, the Australia-based tycoon.

The prime minister also was probed for making political appointments to the small business administration he controlled as minister of trade, industry and labour between 2003 and 2005.

The scandal that eventually would force Olmert to resign his position as party leader, and as prime minister, came in late May. Morris Talansky, an American Jewish fund-raiser and businessman, testified that Olmert had accepted about \$150,000 in cash payments under dubious circumstances over a 15-year period before he became prime minister. Police also said they were investigating Olmert for double-billing trips abroad whose expenses were paid by Jewish charities.

Olmert's public standing also suffered from the aftermath of the 2006 war between Hezbollah and Israel. The publication in late January of the Winograd

Commission's final report on the war was scathingly critical of his performance, but it stopped short of recommending that he resign.

The prime minister claimed the report had lifted a "moral stigma" by vindicating his decision to launch a major ground operation in the last 60 hours of the war, even though the operation cost dozens of lives and its utility proved to be inconclusive. But the two soldiers kidnapped in the attack that sparked the war remained missing.

That changed only in July, and the change came through diplomacy, not war.

In late June, nearly two years after the outbreak of the war, Israel and Hezbollah agreed to a prisoner exchange. In July, the remains of Israeli reservists Eldad Regev and Ehud Goldwasser were returned to Israel in exchange for the remains of some 200 Lebanese and Palestinian fighters and the release of five Lebanese terrorists, including Samir Kuntar, from Israeli jails.

The deal was alternately praised and criticized in the Israeli media, and it was widely seen as a victory for Hezbollah.

With the prime minister reeling from low popularity ratings and allegations of bribery, breach of trust and violations of election campaign laws, Olmert finally announced in July that he would not run for re-election when his party, Kadima, held new primaries in September.

The new Kadima leader would become prime minister as soon as a coalition government could be formed.

Despite the political turmoil of 5768, Israel's economy remained relatively strong. In the first quarter of 2008, unemployment hit a 13-year low of 6.3 per cent, and in 2007 Israel's per capita gross domestic product rose to \$31,767 – on par with European countries such as France and Italy.

However, the strong shekel, which rose by about 20 per cent against the dollar during 5768, hurt Israeli exports and, for the first time in years, sparked some signs in Israel of incipient inflation.

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As Dead Sea shrinks, concerns for future grow

By Uriel Heilman

EIN GEDI, Israel (JTA) – The beach at the Ein Gedi Spa at the Dead Sea would seem like an ideal place for a little R&R amid the frenzy of modern Israel.

Set in the quiet of the desert, it has stunning views of Jordan's mountains and its therapeutic waters reputedly do wonders for the complexion.

There's only one problem at this beach: The sea is gone.

In its place are empty lifeguard towers and abandoned beach umbrellas lodged in the parched earth that make a mockery of the Dead Sea's quiet retreat.

The sea actually still exists, but it's smaller, shallower and much more distant than it once was – some 160 feet from the original beach built at Ein Gedi. The Dead Sea is shrinking because nearly every source of water that feeds into this iconic tourist destination has been cut off, diverted or polluted over the last half century.

"This is a completely man-made disaster," says Gidon Bromberg, the Israel director of Friends of the Earth Middle East, an international environmental group. "There is nothing natural about this."



One of the ideas for saving the Dead Sea, whose rapid retreat is visible in this bird's-eye view, is constructing a channel to bring sea water from the Red Sea.

(Photo: Uriel Heilman)

A tram now shuttles visitors from the abandoned beach at Ein Gedi to the new beach, which sits at more than 1,300 feet below sea level. Thirty years ago this beach was submerged under water. In 10

years, it likely will be dry, too, and the visitors' ramp again will have to be extended to reach the sea.

By 2025, the sea is expected to be at 1,440 feet below sea level.

The shrinking of the Dead Sea

has become an issue of grave concern for environmentalists, industries that produce Dead Sea-related products and Israel's tourism sector, which worries that the visitors who come here from all over the world

will disappear along with the sea.

To environmentalists, the shrinking of the sea is an environmental disaster that left unchecked could devastate the region in the coming decades.

The sea's retreat already has spawned thousands of dangerous sinkholes. Created by retreating groundwater washing away salt deposits that had supported a surface layer of sand, the sinkholes have decimated beaches, nature reserves and agricultural fields in the area.

Future development along the northern rim of the sea has been suspended indefinitely, and the sinkholes have taken a toll on the area's roads. Route 90, the Israeli highway that runs north-south along the Dead Sea's western shore, has had to be rebuilt several times because of sinkholes opening up in its path.

In the meantime, the shifting groundwater has wreaked havoc with the natural oases and springs near the sea. Some natural habitats have been destroyed, and with them the feeding grounds of indigenous wildlife. Ornithologists say the annual migration of birds to this

(Continued on page 16)

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Economic consequences of sea's retreat staggering

(Continued from page 15)
area – the third-largest migration in the world – has begun to taper off.

Perhaps most significantly for the people who live in the region, the economic consequences of the sea's retreat have been staggering for agriculture and tourism.

"This has cost us more than \$25 million since 1995, when the sinkholes started opening up," Merav Ayalon, a spokeswoman for Kibbutz Ein Gedi, the largest Israeli town at the Dead Sea, said.

The kibbutz has had to close its resort village – though it still operates guest houses – abandon its groves of date palms and forego any expansion plans because it is virtually locked in now by mountains or unsafe, shifting ground.

Farther south, at the clus-

ture of hotels on the Israeli side of the sea, hotels built decades ago along the Dead Sea's shores have preserved their beaches only thanks to an artificial pool of sea water. The pool, which is connected to the Dead Sea, is maintained by Dead Sea Works, the massive mineral extraction plant whose operations have accelerated the sea's disappearance through wholesale evaporation of water.

If not for the artificial pool, the hotels would be in the desert, since the southern portion of the Dead Sea no longer exists. Though visitors cannot tell that the hotels' beaches are artificially maintained, hoteliers say they fear potential tourists are deterred from coming to the region because they think the sea's retreat has left the hotels high and dry.

"Tourists from abroad don't know exactly where the sea is located and where the sinkholes are, so they don't come as much anymore," said Avi Levy, who used to be the general manager of the Crown Plaza Dead Sea but now works at the hotel's franchise in Tel Aviv. "Also, I think, there is antagonism that we are allowing such a valuable site as the Dead Sea to be destroyed."

Agricultural industries in Israel, Jordan and Syria siphon water from the rivers that used to feed into the Dead Sea and divert the water flow for agricultural use. This, along with the dumping of sewage by these countries and the Palestinian Authority, has turned the Jordan River, the sea's main tributary, from the voluminous flow described in the Bible to a muddy, polluted dribble that doesn't even reach the Dead Sea anymore during the summer months.

In addition, companies like Dead Sea Works are removing water from the sea at a rate of about 150 million cubic metres per year to get at the lucrative minerals beneath the water. The minerals are used to produce chemical products for export such as potash and magnesium chloride.

Potash can be used to make glass, soap and fertilizer, and magnesium chloride can be used in the manufac-

ture of foodstuffs and roadway de-icing products.

The work of these companies has turned what once was the southern portion of the sea into a massive industrial site.

At the time of Israel's founding in 1948, about 1.4 billion cubic metres of water per year flowed into the Dead Sea. That total has shrunk to 100 million cubic metres, much of it polluted. Today, the only fresh water the sea gets is from underground springs and rainwater. With inadequate fresh water, the sea has become more salty and oleaginous.

Scientists estimate that the Dead Sea needs at least 650 million cubic metres of water per year in order to stabilize over the next two decades.

Short of a major change in water-use policy, which environmentalists say is imperative, the Dead Sea will continue to shrink at its current rate of 3.2 to 3.5 feet per year until it reaches equilibrium in 100 to 200 years at some

1,800 feet below sea level, experts say.

There are two main ideas for stabilizing the Dead Sea.

Environmentalists want to restore flow to the sea from the Jordan River. But that would require a sharp reduction in the use of Jordan River water for agricultural and domestic consumption, as well as cooperation between the Israelis, Palestinians, Syrians and Jordanians. At this point, neither seems likely.

The other idea is to construct a canal to bring salt water to the Dead Sea from the Red Sea, 125 miles to the south. Championed by Israeli President Shimon Peres and Israeli real estate magnate Isaac Tshuva, among others, this plan envisions the construction of up to 200,000 new hotel rooms and the transformation of the desert along the channel's route into an Israeli-Jordanian "peace valley."

Notwithstanding the enormous financial costs of such an enterprise – \$3 billion to

\$5 billion – scientists say bringing salt water to a sea that heretofore has been fed only by fresh water has unknown risks.

"A decision like this cannot be made without checking the ecological impact on the environment," said Noam Goldstein, project manager at Dead Sea Works, which has made a fortune extracting minerals like potash, table salt and bromide from the Dead Sea. "It's possible that with a canal the sea will turn brown or red. It's possible it will stink because of the introduction of new chemical and biological substances into the water."

The World Bank is conducting a \$14 million study into the practicalities of the channel, dubbed the Red-to-Dead Canal.

For the time being, no solution to the problem of the Dead Sea has moved beyond the review stage. Meanwhile, with the Holy Land facing its worst drought in 80 years, the sea continues to disappear.



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News Analysis

Political realities may doom Olmert's final push for peace

By Leslie Susser

JERUSALEM (JTA) – With his Kadima Party about to elect a new leader, Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert is making a concerted last-ditch effort to reach a peace deal with the Palestinians.

Olmert has drawn up a detailed peace offer and presented it to U.S. and Palestinian leaders. U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice described it as "very generous."

Although the Palestinians say wide gaps remain, Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas and Olmert reportedly agreed to make every effort to wrap up a full-fledged peace agreement by the end of the year.

But both sides are skeptical.

Israeli Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni and former P.A. prime minister Ahmed Qureia, who are involved in a parallel negotiation that is conducting line-by-line drafting of a final-status agreement, estimate that the process could go on well into 2009 and beyond. They say the effort must be given all the time it needs.

Warning against the danger of rushing things, Livni said artificial deadlines could lead to frustration on the Palestinian side and spark a third intifada. Alternatively, time pressure could lead Israel to compromise on vital interests.

Right-wing opposition to the Olmert-Abbas talks goes even further. Opposition leaders have questioned the very legitimacy of Olmert's conducting a vigorous peace drive so close to the end of his term. Likud Party leader Benjamin Netanyahu described Olmert's peace plan as "morally and substantially flawed" and warned that it would strengthen Hamas.

There are problems on the Palestinian side, too.

Abbas' term could end early next year, leaving the Palestinians with a more radical leadership before a final agreement is wrapped up.

What's worse is that as long as Hamas controls the Gaza Strip, the chances of implementing any Israeli-Palestinian peace deal are vir-

tually zero.

Olmert's latest proposal deals with four core issues: territory, security, refugees and Jerusalem.

On territory, he offers the Palestinians 93 per cent of the West Bank, with Israel retaining large Jewish settlement blocs in the remaining seven percent. As compensation, the Palestinians would get an area equivalent to 5.5 per cent of the West Bank in Israeli land close to the Gaza Strip, and a land corridor connecting Gaza and the West Bank, linking the two in a single Palestinian state.

On security, Olmert proposes that the future Palestinian state would be demilitarized and barred from building military alliances. Israel would have early warning stations on the Samarian hills in the West Bank, a temporary army presence in the Jordan Valley, a presence at border crossings, control of airspace over Gaza and the West Bank, and access to the main east-west corridors in the West Bank.

On refugees, Olmert categorically rejects the so-called Palestinian right of return: Palestinian refugees would be entitled to return to the Palestinian state in unlimited numbers, but not to Israel proper. Still, there is a small concessionary loophole in the Olmert proposal: 1,500 to 2,000 Palestinians would be allowed to "return" to Israel proper every year for 10 years for "humanitarian reasons." In other words Israel could, at its discretion, allow the immigration over 10 years of 15,000 to 20,000 Palestinians.

Although Olmert insists that Jerusalem has not been on the negotiating agenda – the Orthodox Shas party has threatened to topple the government if Jerusalem is so much as discussed – the prime minister does include a temporary solution for the city in his proposal.

The final Israeli-Palestinian document would include reference to "a joint mechanism with a fixed timetable" for resolving the dispute over Jerusalem. Olmert aides refuse to elaborate but say



Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert (right) meets with Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas on August 31 in Jerusalem.

(Photo: Ben Gershon/Government Press Office/BPH Images)

there would be elements in the joint mechanism "attractive to the Palestinians."

This apparently refers partly to an offer by Olmert to involve other Arab and international parties – including Jordan, Morocco, Egypt, the Vatican and the international Quartet grouping of the United States, Russia, the European Union and the United Nations – in seeking a permanent solution for Jerusalem and its holy places.

The Palestinians, however, argue that Olmert's proposals do not go far enough, and they insist that the gaps between the Israeli and Palestinian positions remain wide.

Some analysts suggest that the only realistic way forward would be through American bridging proposals. But the Americans are unlikely to be forthcoming. During a visit in June, when Rice asked for a paper highlighting key points of agreement and disagreement, both sides refused on the grounds that that kind of hands-on American intervention would not be helpful at this stage.

"We and the Israelis told Dr. Rice that the decisions are required from Palestinians and Israelis," senior Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erakat told JTA. "I am sure the Americans, the Arabs and the Europeans will stand shoulder to shoulder with us in order to implement whatever we agree. But the decisions are for Palestinians and Israelis."

Officials close to Olmert

argue that even if it can't immediately be implemented, a joint Israeli-Palestinian document on permanent-status issues would constitute a his-

toric breakthrough. "We believe it would become a galvanizing point for all the moderates and offer an alternative to the Hamas-Hezbollah-Tehran paradigm," Olmert spokesman Mark Regev said.

Regev believes that not only would the deal win wide international support and boost the moderates in the Arab world, it also would help resolve the problem of Israeli settlement in the West Bank.

"If we are successful in delineating to a great degree of specificity where the final borders will be, then obviously we will continue to build in the settlements on our side and not in those on the Palestinian side," he told JTA.

In other words, immediately upon signing the deal,

Israel would regard settlements on its side of the border as part of Israel proper, with no extrinsic restrictions on development and growth. Those on the Palestinian side, by contrast, would be seen as living on borrowed time and slated for evacuation.

For any agreement to stand a chance of implementation, its advocates would have to find a way around Palestinian rejectionists – including Hamas in Gaza – and around Israeli opponents. In both cases, opponents may press for new elections, which would serve as a referendum on the peace deal.

That does not bode well for a peace deal. Hamas is unlikely to allow elections in Gaza and Israeli polls suggest Likud may win the next general election.



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uOttawa honours donors to Yiddish book collection

By Liana Shlien

Almost a thousand Yiddish-language books have been donated to the Vered Jewish Canadian Studies Program at the University of Ottawa (uOttawa) over the past two years and the donors will be honoured October 5 at the university library.

"This is our way of recognizing those gifts," said Rebecca Margolis, a uOttawa assistant professor in the Vered Program.

The idea of a Yiddish book collection began two years ago when Barry Walfish, librarian of the Judaica collection at the University of Toronto, thought to send his library's surplus Yiddish books to help build up the newly established Vered Program.

Walfish encouraged some 10 families, mostly from Toronto, to donate books as well, which they did in the tens or hundreds.

Major donors from Ottawa include David and Rose Shentow and the Barwin family.

Myrna Barwin, who donated 222 books left to her from her father from South



Professor Rebecca Margolis and Emily Lam browse the Yiddish Collection at the University of Ottawa with librarian Jennifer Dekker. (OJB photo: Liana Shlien)

Africa, says, "I'm really pleased that they'll be used and appreciated. My father would get a real kick out of it."

"It's all been through word of mouth," says Margolis of the new collection housed in the University of Ottawa library. She says it is a smaller version of the National Yiddish Book Center in Amherst, Massachu-

setts, whose mission is to rescue books that risk being abandoned because their current owners cannot read Yiddish.

"People are very excited to give them to us rather than having them sit around in boxes or, God forbid, be thrown out."

The varied collection includes literary works as well as reference materials

such as encyclopedias and dictionaries.

To fit in with the Vered Program's specialized focus, Margolis has tried to keep the emphasis on Canadian writers, with books by almost every Canadian Yiddish author. There are also works from the United States, Europe and Israel.

The university also recently received microfilm

of the *Canadian Eagle* (*Der Keneder Odler*), the country's biggest Yiddish newspaper, published from 1907 to 1988, which Margolis says, "is an amazing resource."

The books serve as important references for students, says Margolis, who teaches a six-week intensive Yiddish language and culture course held in May and June.

Margolis says her students emerge "exhausted" but "really make unbelievable progress in those six weeks." They are able to translate original poetry, write short essays and even sing and act, which they demonstrate at their graduation performance.

Interestingly, most of the 30 students who completed the course this year, like the ones Margolis taught at the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research in New York City, were non-Jews. She estimates that, in most Jewish-themed courses offered at the university, 50 to 75 per cent of students are not Jewish.

"It makes me a better teacher because I can't throw around [Jewish] terms and assume students will know

what I mean."

One of those students is Emily Lam, a recent uOttawa graduate who has spent the past year working with Margolis on a directed reading project: "Early Canadian Klezmer Musicians in Montreal."

Lam, who has taken many classes taught by her "mentor" Margolis, says, after completing the intensive class in June, "I had more of an appreciation for communities and people who still use the Yiddish language."

Lam returned briefly to Ottawa last month after attending her second year at KlezKanada in the Laurentians. A week later, though, she moved to Montreal to intern at the Canadian Jewish Congress and Jewish Public Library, where she will sort through Yiddish materials and continue her research.

Lam will also be working with the education director at the National Yiddish Book Center putting together a music display for their discovery project series, but says, "I'll have to come back to Ottawa to visit and check out the new donations."

Israeli film opens gay pride week in Ottawa

By Liana Shlien

Shared Values, an evening of film and discussion sponsored by the Embassy of Israel, opened Capital Pride Week in Ottawa drawing a diverse audience to Ottawa City Hall's Council Chambers.

Israeli media expert Donny Inbar, an arts correspondent in London, a former editor of weekly newspapers in Tel Aviv and Haifa and the founding editor of *Ha'aretz* online service, spoke about the status of gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgendered persons in Israel today.

"In today's generation, they're really accepted. It's almost a non-issue in the workplace," he said. "In Tel Aviv, you never had a gay quarter; they live everywhere."

Inbar said that prominent members of Israeli society – including a high-ranking IDF officer and a Knesset member – live openly gay lives and that Israeli law and society

have changed gradually to accommodate the realities of its population.

Inbar mentioned that Israel, in 1998, was the first country to send a transsexual singer to the Eurovision Song Contest. Sharon Cohen, known professionally as Dana International, won first place in the contest. This fact came as a surprise to the chair of the Pride festival, Joanne Law, who is transgendered and has been marching in Gay Pride parades for 14 years.

Law commented on the multicultural audience and on how this event had attracted members of the gay, Christian, Muslim and Jewish communities.

"It's nice to see different worlds getting together under the same rainbow," she said.

Israel's uniquely tolerant attitudes within the Middle East were mirrored in the evening's film presentation.

"Since being gay in the Palestinian territories is more



Israeli media expert Donny Inbar speaks at the Capital Pride Week opening event on August 18 at Ottawa City Hall. (OJB photo: Liana Shlien)

or less equal to a death warrant, Israel has given a lot of amnesty to gay Palestinians," Inbar noted.

Inbar's talk was interspersed with clips from popular Israeli films. Gil Sbuter, who runs an Internet forum

on gay-lesbian parenting, introduced a comedic clip of a cartoon shown at Israel's gay film festival, "Lizzy the Lezzy," who has become famous via YouTube and MySpace.

The film screened was *The*

Bubble, a 2006 Israeli production directed by Eytan Fox, whose other films include *Walk on Water* and *Yossi & Jagger*. Set mainly on trendy Sheinkin Street in Tel Aviv, an area termed "the hub for the alternative

lifestyle," it's a gay *Romeo and Juliet*-type love story about two young men, an Israeli and a Palestinian. The film's title refers to Tel Aviv's reputation within Israel as a metropolis whose inhabitants' lives often seem isolated from much of the turmoil in the region.

The film starts with plenty of laughs set against sober scenes of West Bank checkpoints. While the film has a hopeful tone with the budding romance, it soon becomes clear that, even living in a city like Tel Aviv, the lovers are not safe from the mounting tensions swirling around them.

The film's ultimate message is of hope for peace in a world full of violence and bigotry.

Shlomit Sviva, cultural affairs officer for the Embassy of Israel, organized the event in connection with Israel's 60th anniversary celebrations.

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Good Jewish experiences must start with the very young. If we have a positive impact on young children and their parents through our preschools, day schools and community programs, there is a greater chance our children will stay involved in the future.

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My wife and I work very hard to instil Jewish values and the importance of community in our two children through a formal Jewish education, summer camp and their participation in programs like Mitzvah Day and Walkathon.

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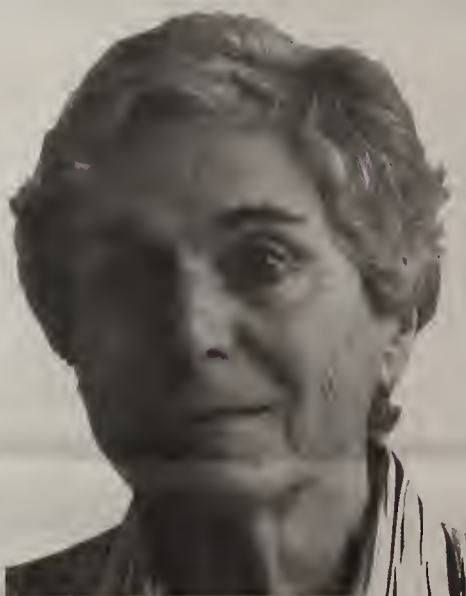
Jewish Family Services offers hope to the disadvantaged through a variety of poverty relief initiatives through their Tikvah Program. They also provide counseling to families and individuals and assist new immigrants in finding work.

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Kadima leadership race**Tzipi Livni: She may be clean, but is she still wet behind the ears?**

By Dina Kraft

JERUSALEM (JTA) – Israeli Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni smooths her tailored black jacket, tosses back her head and takes in the King David Hotel hall packed check to jowl with foreign journalists.

Every chair is taken, photographers line the walls and the lights of dozens of TV cameras bathe the room in a yellow glow.

The woman who would be prime minister can draw quite a crowd.

Polls show that Livni, 50, is the leading contender to win Kadima Party primaries September 17 to succeed Ehud Olmert.

Like her main party rival, Transportation Minister Shaul Mofaz, Livni has been on Israel's national stage for about a decade. Since her election to the Knesset on the Likud list in 1999, Livni has enjoyed what often is referred to here as a "meteoric" rise under the tutelage of mentor Ariel Sharon.

With her reputation for straight talk, intelligence and political moderation, Livni has managed to capture something of the popular imagination in an Israel weary of



Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni is among the top two candidates to win the Kadima party primary September 17. (Photo: Brian Hendler)

corruption and grandstanding among its politicians.

But 'Mrs. Clean,' as she is sometimes called, lacks the military credentials of her main rivals – among them Likud leader Benjamin Netanyahu and Defense Minister Ehud Barak, the Labor leader – should Kadima's new leader fail to assemble a coalition

government and general elections soon follow.

Livni's rivals have pointed to her relative dearth of leadership experience to cast her as insufficiently prepared for the job of prime minister. Barak even borrowed from a theme in a Hillary Clinton campaign ad, asking who Israelis would want to answer the

phone at 3:00 am.

The foreign minister has been firing back.

"Security is not only a question of whether or not there is specific kind of military operation," Livni said at the King David Hotel news conference. "The prime minister needs to put on the table what is the goal of Israel as a state, the means to achieve this goal and whether the means are through military force or diplomatic options."

Livni, a former lawyer who started her professional career as a Mossad agent, also spoke of her experience in Israel's three-person security cabinet with Barak and Olmert.

Her tenure in that group has not been free of criticism, however. During the 2006 Lebanon war, Livni lobbied for a diplomatic solution and openly criticized Olmert's management of the crisis.

While her criticism reflected widespread public sentiment during and after the war, Livni was skewered in the media for staying in the government despite calling on the prime minister to resign in May 2007. The call followed a state inquiry investigating the war

that found fault with Olmert's management of the conflict.

At the time, Israeli commentator Ben Caspit wrote in the Israeli daily, *Ma'ariv*, that Livni was better suited to be the leader of a women's organization like Na'amat, the women's arm of the Labor Party, than the country.

But among those who have worked alongside Livni in the various political offices she has held – she has served as the minister of regional cooperation, of immigrant absorption, of justice and of housing and infrastructure – there is abiding respect for her capabilities and intellect.

"Being steady is about knowing how to make difficult decisions not just on impulse and emotion," said Mirla Gal, who grew up with Livni in Tel Aviv and worked alongside her at the Ministry of Immigrant Absorption as director general.

"She is not all about politics and games," said Ari Shavit, a columnist for *Ha'aretz*.

Shai Ben-Mor, who worked as Livni's communications director, said Livni often "fled from the headlines" where other politicians

(Continued on page 26)

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National Gallery volunteers to celebrate 50 years

By Liana Shlien

The National Gallery of Canada (NGC) expects more than 4,000 people to attend the 50th anniversary celebrations of its Volunteers' Circle on Sunday, October 5.

Anniversary chairperson Rose Ann Hoffenberg has been planning the day-long event - running from 10:00 am to 4:30 pm at NGC - for two years.

"It's a very complex program," she says. "We've never done anything so dense."

Admission to NGC will be free and the Volunteers' Circle's various programs will be showcased along with talks on artworks in both English and French, scavenger hunts for children and a teen graffiti workshop. Music will be everywhere,

with jazz singer Brian Browne and Trio, Inuit throat singers, and Ottawa's chamber choir, Seventeen Voycees.

Fifties-style food will be served in the cafeteria and there will be a special exhibition in honour of the decade in which the Volunteers' Circle was founded.

The Volunteers' Circle began in 1958 as Friends of the National Gallery. At first, they were just a few art enthusiasts meeting in a home. Gradually, the organization, which is independent of the NGC, expanded and now has more than 300 active members.

The Volunteers' Circle has 13 bilingual programs including study groups which teach the public about visual arts and specific

pieces, a travel committee for members to visit art galleries regionally and abroad, and school outreach programs which bring art reproductions to public schools.

A commemorative book, *In the Company of Friends: 50 Years of Volunteering at the National Gallery*, was published in May and will be available for sale at the celebrations.

Hoffenberg was asked to plan the 50th anniversary celebrations after having led the 25th anniversary of the docents in 1999.

The docents are the largest group of NGC volunteers. They give guided tours to schools and the public, and give talks on paintings. Hoffenberg estimates about one-third of the 50 docents are Jewish.

"I just find that Jews always seem to have a high ratio of involvement in the arts," she says.

Hoffenberg, who wrote the *Art Works* column for the *Bulletin* in the 1990s, has been a docent since 1989.

"It was just going to be for 10 years, but every time I turn around, there's always something new," she says. "It's just one of the most exciting volunteer jobs. It's hugely challenging and I feel hugely privileged to be a part of it."

While most of today's docents have a background



Rose Ann Hoffenberg is putting together the final preparations for the big celebration in October

(OJB photo: Liana Shlien)

in art history, many of the early docents did not. Sarah Vered was one of those first docents and is quoted in a passage from *In the Company of Friends*:

"I was one of the original group. The docent training opened my eyes to everything. I went on to take a degree in art history and religion and this has enriched my life."

Phyllis Silverman got involved more than 30 years

ago through Vered. "She really brought me in," she recalled.

Silverman, who was also inspired by her volunteer work as a docent to take an art history course at Carleton University, describes the docents as a very close-knit, dedicated group. Giving tours about twice a month, she says, keeps her busy and is "very gratifying and stimulating."

Sally Levitan was also

approached by Vered. She joined in 1976 and has never looked back. "It's extremely rewarding," says Levitan, who has been active on the travel committee, going to major galleries in Europe and the United States.

"Being a docent is a long-term commitment," says Levitan, who has given tours to Jewish groups visiting from out of town. "You have to attend weekly classes, do a lot of research on your own time and learn the gallery's whole collection."

The NGC, on Sussex Drive, was designed in 1988 by Moshe Safdie, the Israeli-born, Montreal-raised, internationally acclaimed architect.

Safdie noted the 1880s Rideau Street Convent Chapel's historical importance when building the NGC and incorporated it right inside the gallery, making it the only space in Canada that has been wholly restored within another building.

The installation of the heritage Rideau Chapel inside the NGC was financed by the Volunteers' Circle, which raised \$625,000 for the project in 1988.

Dawn Logan of the Ottawa Jewish Archives has been a docent since 1981 and will give a talk on the chapel's restoration at the 50th anniversary celebration.

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Kadima leadership race

Shaul Mofaz: From tough general to hawkish politician

By Roy Eitan

JERUSALEM (JTA) – If Shaul Mofaz succeeds Ehud Olmert as the head of the Kadima Party and, eventually, as Israeli prime minister, he may have Iran to thank.

Fifty years after Mofaz left his native Tehran for the fledgling Jewish state, the retired general-turned-politician has made the Iranian threat – be it nuclear bombs or support for terrorism – the centrepiece of his run for top office.

"The Iranians are the root of all evil," the gravelly voiced Mofaz said shortly after officially launching his campaign.

The strategy is clear. With polls showing Mofaz trailing Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni ahead of the September 17 leadership election in Kadima, the former army chief of staff and ex-defense minister is playing up his military pedigree.

"In Israeli politics, there is a basic truism that the strong leader with a background in national security has an advantage," U.S. political consultant Arthur Finkelstein wrote in a July 31 letter to Mofaz that was leaked to Israel's

Channel 2 TV. "I am convinced that you will win the Kadima primaries because, in this case, you are the strong leader."

Mofaz, 59, currently Israel's transportation minister, is a relative newcomer to politics but has been on the national stage for a decade.

In 1998, then-prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu appointed the celebrated paratrooper officer, who took part in the 1976 Entebbe rescue, to be the Israel Defense Forces' chief of staff. Mofaz also served in the post under prime ministers Ehud Barak and Ariel Sharon.

Mofaz's handling of the second intifada was somewhat controversial. He backed tough tactics to put down the campaign of Palestinian terrorism, including targeted assassinations of Palestinian leaders. He won plaudits from many Israelis, but was seen by other Israelis as exceedingly harsh.

After he left the IDF to become defence minister under Sharon, Mofaz was unwittingly recorded urging Sharon to assassinate Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat.

Even after leaving the right-wing Likud Party for Sharon's newly founded Kadima – a move taken only after initially rejecting the idea and declaring himself a candidate for the Likud's leadership – Mofaz has not shied away from embracing hawkish stances.

In June, he told an interviewer that Israel would attack Iran if the Islamic Republic continued its program to develop nuclear weapons.

"The sanctions are ineffective," Mofaz said. "Attacking Iran, in order to stop its nuclear plans, will be unavoidable."

Oil prices surged in response, but Mofaz held firm, repeating his assertion several days later and saying during a visit to Washington, "The existence of the State of Israel is more important than gas prices."

Such indelicate talk has stirred concern among some in Israel that Mofaz is not ready to be a statesman.

"Had Shaul Mofaz been contending for the leadership of a rightist militant party, we would not expect anything else of him,"



Transportation Minister Shaul Mofaz is among the top two candidates to win the Kadima party primary September 17.

(Photo: Brian Hendler)

political analyst Emmanuel Rosen said.

"Yet, when it comes to someone who wishes to become the chairman of a centrist party and a prime minister, we would like to hear something that is a little deeper, creative and mostly realistic in respect to dealing with tough regional problems."

If elected the prime minister, Mofaz would be the first non-Ashkenazi Jew to hold the post. He lived in Iran until he was about 10 and spent his first years as an Israeli at a transit camp for Iranian immigrants.

Mofaz has made no secret of capitalizing on his ethnic roots when necessary – his main financial support reportedly comes from wealthy former Iranians in Israel – and he has received the blessings of Sephardic leader Rabbi Ovadia Yosef, the spiritual leader of the Sephardic-Orthodox Shas Party. But he has not played the 'race card' in his campaign.

Mofaz also has taken care to balance out his more hawkish statements on Iran with calls for Israel to continue pursuing peace talks with the Palestinians, then Syria and other Arab foes – albeit without rushing things.

"I think it isn't right to allocate a time limit to complicated processes. First they have to be given a different economic reality and we have to renew trust," he said of the Palestinians in a recent interview with *Yedioth Achronot*. "I

(Continued on page 26)

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Mofaz calls for results-based process with Palestinians

(Continued from page 25)

will conduct negotiations with them myself."

"There will be no situation, like now, in which Israel talks in three voices – that of Olmert, that of Livni and that of the Americans."

"The process with the Palestinians should be results based. It's for good reason I was called 'Mr. Realist.' The Palestinians know me. I will find a common language with them. They know that with me, my word is my word."

For the past two years, Mofaz has represented Israel in regular strategic talks with the Bush administration. Those talks

have centred on dealing with the problem of Iran.

Despite his harsh talk on attacking Iran, Mofaz takes care to distinguish between the radical regime of Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad and the ayatollahs, and ordinary Iranian people, of whom Mofaz speaks fondly.

Addressing a Washington audience last month, Mofaz recalled holding a telephone discussion with a Tehran taxi driver during a Persian-language radio address that was relayed to Iran.

"You were at Entebbe," the cabbie said, according to Mofaz. "Can't you come here too and rescue us from the mullahs?"

Livni changed position to support idea of territorial compromise

(Continued from page 23)

would seek coverage.

As an example, he cites the time that Livni visited Jewish settlements in the Gaza Strip shortly before Israel evacuated from the territory in the summer of 2005. She wanted to meet the local residents and explain to them that she felt their pain but was standing behind the government policy to evacuate Gaza, Ben-Mor said.

"She had the courage to go there to a place where she is deeply unpopular, to look in their eyes and not to hide in her bureau in Jerusalem," Ben-Mor said.

Her support for the Gaza withdrawal reflected how much Livni, who was raised by fiercely ideological parents, represented a shift from her political beginnings.

Her father, Eitan, was a commander of the pre-state Irgun militia and was later a Likud Knesset member. Her mother, Sara, also was a well-known Irgun fighter who inspired one of the militia's fight songs, "Up to the Barricades."

Livni herself once opposed any notion of trading land for peace. But not unlike other prominent sons and daughters of the founding Likud elite, including Olmert, Livni changed her

position to support the idea of territorial compromise.

As foreign minister, Livni has led Israel's talks with the Palestinians, which have been conducted largely out of public view.

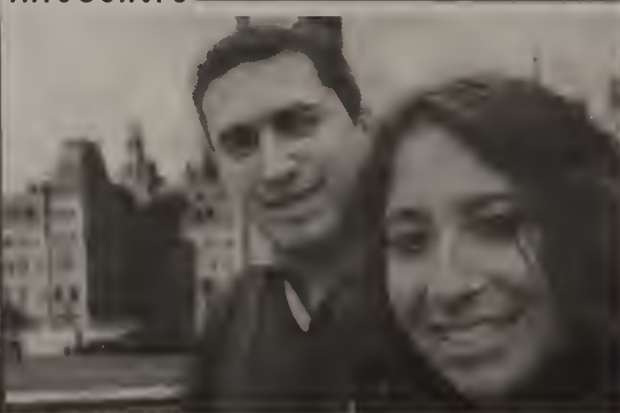
Whether or not those talks achieve diplomatic fruit will depend in large part on how Livni fares in Kadima's primary, and whether the winner of that vote can assemble a coalition government and stave off new general elections.



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Show them the money: Campus groups offer students cash for Torah study

By Ben Harris

NEW YORK (JTA) – Several years ago, Rabbi Shlomo Levin hit on a new way to attract students from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee to classes at his nearby Orthodox synagogue. Instead of spending money on advertising, Rabbi Levin reasoned it would be simpler to give the money directly to the students in exchange for attendance.

Though the sums involved were relatively modest, the initiative was a success.

"My thinking was very, very practical," Rabbi Levin told JTA. "Instead of spending all that money on elaborate publicity, just give the money to the people who come to the program. They'll be happier."

Not everyone was happier. Some board members at the rabbi's Lake Park Synagogue were uncomfortable from the start, Rabbi Levin says, and, after the local newspaper reported on the project, the synagogue shut it down.

But the idea of paying college students to attend Jewish studies classes has not only survived, it has expanded to more than 70 campuses and attracted support from major Jewish philanthropists.

"This was an idea to get students involved in learning Judaism, learning about their heritage, and as an incentive, in order to give them the amazing knowledge and to give them right mind-set; it's to lock them in," said Fully Eisenberger, an Orthodox rabbi at the University of Michigan who runs the Maimonides Fellowship program

on the Ann Arbor campus.

The program, which was launched in 2001 by Jewish Awareness America and is supported by the New York City-based Wolfson Family Foundation, offers participants \$400 or a free trip to Israel.

In exchange, Rabbi Eisenberger said, students "have to commit to 10 classes and come to weekend getaways," including a trip to Toronto – all expenses paid.

Providing financial support to students who engage in Torah study is a practice that dates back more than a century. In Europe, kollels provided an annual salary to married men who studied full time, a practice that has continued among the Orthodox.

Organizers of the college student fellowships describe their programs in similar terms – as 'stipends' to enable Torah study free from the pressures of earning supplementary income. But payments are being used increasingly to attract unaffiliated Jews who may not otherwise attend a Jewish class.

"I had a friend who was doing it," recalled Elise Peizner, who participated in the Sinai Scholars Society, a program run by the Chabad-Lubavitch movement, as a sophomore at Boston University. "But, to be quite honest, I heard there was a \$500 cheque that went along with it. So it sounded intriguing – the cheque."

Founded in 2005, Sinai Scholars is offering students at more than 40 universities \$500 to attend classes this semester. The program is supported by the Rohr Family

Foundation and Elie Horn, a developer of luxury real estate from Brazil.

One of the leading non-Chasidic Orthodox outreach programs, Aish Hatorah, also has adopted the pay-the-participants approach. In a recent article, the Associated Press reported that Aish Café, a website run by Aish Hatorah, offers students \$250 cash or \$300 toward an

Israel trip for completing its program and passing two tests.

Rabbi Avraham Jacobovitz, who started the first Maimonides Fellowship, at the University of Michigan, said he screens participants in his program to weed out financially motivated students.

"The financial offer was (Continued on page 30)

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Israel facing it's worst drought in history

By Dina Kraft

GILAT, Israel (JTA) – In the sands of the Negev Desert here, small groves of eucalyptus, olive and pomegranate trees grow in shallow depressions dug out to catch floodwater, a method used by the Nabateans thousands of years ago.

The ancient technique is one way Israelis are trying to harness every drop of water, an effort that has become critical as the country reels from its fourth straight year of drought.

Experts say Israel is in the worst water crisis it has ever seen.

"We don't have any water to waste," says Elisha Mizrahi, the director of the Jewish National Fund's Southern Region, which initiated the project. Mizrahi looks out onto the groves, the only hint of green for miles.

As Israel's population swells, increasing water demands have exacerbated the effects of below-average rainfall rates and less consistent rainfall, which some scientists suggest are a consequence of global warming.

The country's three main reservoirs, including Lake Kinneret, have passed their 'red,' or emergency, lines. If the water levels continue to drop, Israel may have to limit water use from the Kinneret in the wintertime.

The government has cut back on water allocations for farmers and industry, and the Israeli public is being urged to reduce usage in an aggressive TV campaign featuring a woman whose face cracks up like a parched piece of earth as an ominous voice-over intones, "We don't have any water to waste."

Israel has made great strides in using recycled sewage water for irrigating farmland. About 75 per cent of sewage water is treated and then used for agriculture, easily making Israel the world's leading nation in the field. The runner-up country, Spain, recycles only 12 per cent of its wastewater.

"We are creating a source for irrigation that otherwise would not be used," Avi Gafni, a JNF hydrologist and research coordinator, says while standing in front of one of the 200 reservoirs the JNF has built in Israel to store treated sewage water. "Every drop of water can make the land

here potentially into agricultural land."

The reservoirs comprise about 16 per cent of the total volume of Israel's water reserves. About 30 per cent of Israeli water used every year is recycled wastewater or desalinated water.

But the water savings aren't enough in this parched land.

Compounding the crisis is the country's reliance on ground water, which provides about two-thirds of Israel's drinking water.

"With the depletion of the water table from the ground, there are opportunities for saltier water to seep in and contaminate the fresh water," said Avner Adin, the founder of the Israel Water Association and a professor at Hebrew University's Department of Soil and Water Sciences.

"These are very difficult processes to reverse," Adin says, warning that the water shortage may become "a catastrophic situation if not handled properly."

Some water experts say the current crisis could have been averted had Israel followed through on its plans after the last water crisis, several years ago, to build a series of new desalination plants.

The Israeli government approved their construction as far back as 2002, but the rate of building slowed when Israel experienced several years of above-average rainfall and investors, including the government, delayed construction of the plants.

Israel has two desalination plants, and a third one is about a year away from completion. But the country's desalination capacity is just one-third of what it was supposed to be according to the government's plans.

Last month, the Knesset established a state commission of inquiry to determine why the government's desalination recommendations were not implemented.

"This is not a water crisis; it's a political crisis," says Arnon Soffer, a geography professor at Haifa University.

Uri Schor, a spokesman for Israel's Water Authority, the government agency responsible for water issues, says expanding desalination capacity "is a process."

The desalination plant in Ashkelon is the largest of its kind in the world, he notes, and, by 2020, Israel will have built enough plants to desalinate 750 million cubic metres of sea water per year.

"This will stabilize the water situation in the medium- and long-term," Schor told JTA.

In Israel, about 1.1 billion cubic metres of water per year go to agriculture – including recycled sewage water. About 766 million go to domestic use and some 120 million to industrial use.

(Continued on page 29)

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A grove of eucalyptus trees growing in the Negev, planted in a depression made in the sand in order to collect floodwater. (Photo: Dina Kraft)

Short-term plan: cut land allocation, raise prices

(Continued from page 28)

Along with the desalinization plants, Schor says Israel's strategy to tackle the water problem is to continue its pioneering work in recycling sewage water for agriculture.

In the short term, however, the plan is to reduce usage by cutting agricultural and industrial allocations, raising household consumer water prices and running public awareness campaigns. The higher water prices also will help pay for the desalinization plants and the extensive new pipeline networks they will require.

Booky Oren, the president and CEO of Miya-the Arison Water Initiative, a \$100 million company that invests in water technology, says Israel – the country that first brought the world drip-irrigation techniques – must harness its talents in water management.

"The difference about today is that there are the technological tools to cope with this crisis," says Oren, a former director of Israel's national water company, Mekorot, who touts Israel as the Silicon Valley of water technology.

"When people take responsibility and don't wait for rainfall alone, we can assist nature and help find solutions."

Among Israel's water-related innovations are electromagnetic sensors that check for water contamination and high-tech water purifying filters used everywhere from industrial plants to fish farms worldwide.

One Israeli company, Watersheer, has developed a small filter for personal drinking water use that is being marketed to hikers, armies and developing countries.

Waterfronts-The Israel Water Alliance is working to encourage investors, private companies and Israeli universities and research centres to develop new water technologies so that Israel can be a leader in the field.

As the sun begins to set, Arie Schreiber, a farmer from Kibbutz Nerim in the western Negev, near Israel's border with Gaza, visits the orchards his kibbutz tends. Part of a larger plot of orange, lemon, tangerine and date trees farmed together with other local kibbutzim, the 1,000 or so acres of groves are fed by recycled wastewater.

The situation could not be any more different than when he first arrived at the kibbutz in 1949. The surrounding land then was virtually impossible to farm.

"It's become a good business," Schreiber says, gesturing to the rows of trees planted in the sand. "A little bit of water and a lot of technology."

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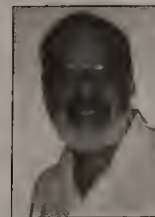
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Payments trivialize Judaism says Rabbi Shmuley Boteach

(Continued from page 27)

only an additional incentive," he told JTA. "Someone that comes only for the financial benefit is not really the quality student we're looking for."

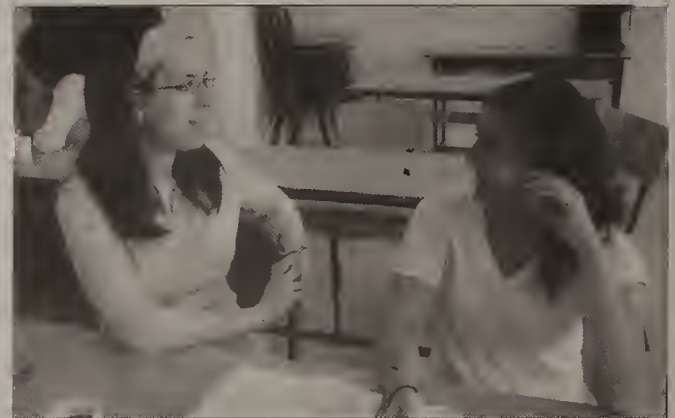
Still, Rabbi Jacobovitz acknowledged that the payments have boosted participation in his programs. Indeed, that was precisely why he founded the fellowship after noticing that a federation stipend program was drawing students to a combination of Jewish studies and leadership classes.

Andrew Landau, who completed the Maimonides Fellowship during his sophomore year at Michigan, said he was looking to advance his Jewish education and meet new friends. The money, he said, was not a prime motivator.

"It's sort of like a coupon," Landau said. "Why does a pizza place offer a buy one, get one free? It's to get them in the door, and then, if they like it, they're going to stay."

Both Landau and Peizner, neither of whom are Orthodox, say they are glad they took part in the program, though they add that they haven't made any lifestyle changes as a result.

Rabbi Eisenberger said that alumni of his fellowship program have become more observant, and he believes he has even prevented some intermarriages. He also claims that about a third of students donate the money



Barrie Schwartz (right), a graduate of the Maimonides Fellowship program, studies Torah with Miriam Shiff during a Jewish Awareness America trip to Israel in May 2008. (Photo: JTA/JAAM)

back to the program.

"This thing works," Rabbi Eisenberger said.

Defenders of the programs note that the payouts are not that different from college scholarships, which also provide cash incentives unrelated to financial need. They also note that providing free food is a time-honoured method for attracting hungry college students.

"God forbid you give them cash; that's very, very bad," Rabbi Levin said sarcastically. "But, if you give them this gigantic food thing, like some of the organizations bring in a Chinese food chef and have a whole Chinese thing, that's not seen as unseemly or a bribe. I really don't understand totally the difference."

Neither does Randy Co-

hen, who writes the *Ethicist* column for the *New York Times Magazine*. Cohen told JTA he saw little difference between offering food and offering cash.

"Ethics, like most law, makes no distinction between incentives in the form of cash or cash equivalent," Cohen said. "Some corporations, for example, forbid employees from accepting gifts from suppliers above a certain cash value. Some campaign law does likewise. When it comes to food, I'd be particularly wary of any diamond-encrusted chicken legs."


But Rabbi Shmuley Boteach, an Orthodox author and host of the television program *Shalom in the Home*, says that, while providing refreshments is an accepted social norm, money crosses a line.

"It trivializes Judaism and it portrays secular Jews as people to be bought off," said Rabbi Boteach, who once ran a popular campus outreach program at Oxford University.

"It's insincere. It sends all the wrong signals: that we don't think the material alone would be compelling, that we need to buy you off."

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By Pamela Rosenberg
for Soloway JCC

A decade ago, almost to the day, Ottawa's Jewish Community Centre (JCC) moved from Chapel Street to its new location in the Joseph and Rose Ages Family Building on the Jewish Community Campus on the city's west side. The new JCC, the Soloway Jewish Community Centre, opened its doors on September 14, 1998.

For 10 years, the Soloway JCC has been the hub of Ottawa's Jewish community, a place to pursue cultural, spiritual and social interests in a friendly and welcoming environment. And, of course, the Soloway JCC is home to a modern fitness centre and two swimming pools providing the facilities and classes for people of all ages and abilities to work out.

Programming at the Soloway JCC includes many unique Jewish cultural and educational programs, from the celebrated Ganon Preschool, which provides small children with a head start to their Jewish education, to the Music Appreciation Series, the Florence Melton School, the Shira Ottawa Choir and Live from the 92nd Street Y, which allows us to enjoy world renowned speakers direct from New York via satellite.

Our programs are non-denominational and inclusive and bring people from many streams of Judaism together.

The Soloway JCC is like a village square where people meet, eat together in a kosher restaurant, take their children swimming, stay healthy and fit, play bridge, visit the library, have a massage and attend lectures and concerts. And we provide a continuity of experience for all ages: from programs for babies, to preschool, summer camps, after school classes, teen programs and plenty of activities for adults and seniors.

Over the years, the Soloway JCC has partnered with many local organizations to help raise funds and awareness for important causes including the CHEO Foundation, the Ottawa Regional Cancer Centre and the University of Ottawa Heart Institute. This year's

Ottawa Celebrity Sports Dinner, the city's premiere sports fundraising event initiated by the Soloway JCC, will partner, for the first time, with the Ottawa Senators Foundation and Roger's House.

As we celebrate our accomplishments of the past decade, we also look to the future.

"I would like to thank everyone who has put in their time, effort and dedication over the past 10 years," says David Spring, chair of the Soloway JCC board of directors.

"Your efforts have resulted in an excellent Soloway JCC with a solid foundation to build upon. We are committed to developing new and innovative programming for the next decade and the Soloway JCC will continue to be the central meeting place for the entire Jewish community."

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In an attempt to communicate and promote better education in the public domain, we have sent a listing of important Jewish Holy Days for the school calendar year, 2008-2009 to all schools in the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board. We hope this will serve as a guide and help prevent timetabling conflicts.

Below find a copy of the relevant dates.

Should you encounter a problem, please bring the situation to the attention of your school council or principal, if the problem is not resolved, please call us at 613-798-4696, ext. 255 or e-mail us at fgreenspoon@jewishottawa.com.

☆ All holy days begin the preceding sundown ☆

ROSH HASHANAH	Tuesday, September 30, 2008 Wednesday, October 1, 2008
YOM KIPPUR	Thursday, October 9, 2008
SUKKOT	Tuesday, October 14, 2008 Wednesday, October 15, 2008
SHEMINI AZERET	Tuesday, October 21, 2008
SIMCHAT TORAH	Wednesday, October 22, 2008
PASSOVER	Thursday, April 9, 2009 Friday, April 10, 2009 Wednesday, April 15, 2009 Thursday, April 16, 2009
SHAVUOT	Friday, May 29, 2009 Saturday, May 30, 2009

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and Staff of the Soloway
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שנה טובה



Inspiring Jewish Journeys

Conservative and Reform cantors adjust to changing job market in United States

By Sue Fishkoff
KERHONKSEN, N.Y.
(JTA) – Two years ago, Temple Isaiah in Palm Springs, California, replaced its full-time cantor with a part-timer. Then the part-timer left and the Conservative synagogue replaced him with a lay soloist who was a member of the congregation.

"Our budget has shrunk, our membership has shrunk and the nature of the cantor has changed," said Lenny Pepper, the executive director of the synagogue, where membership has fallen by half

in the past 10 years, to 330 members.

Short on cash, and with worshipers happier to sing along with a guitar-playing lay leader than listen to traditional *musach*, or cantorial chanting, Temple Isaiah decided to do without a professional.

The congregation is saving money and getting the kind of prayer service members prefer.

"Temples all over the country are facing the same problem," Pepper said. "In these tough times, everybody's trying to figure out

how we're going to survive."

In today's economy, cantors are finding it more difficult than usual to find work. That's especially true in the hard-hit Conservative movement, where membership is dwindling and synagogues are downsizing. Cash-strapped congregations forced to choose almost always hire a rabbi over a cantor.

Conservative synagogues in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania; Portland, Maine; Randolph, Massachusetts; and Chattanooga, Tennessee, all recently let their full-time cantors go.

Others like Temple Beth Shalom in Smithtown, New York; Temple Ner Tamid in Peabody, Massachusetts; and Beth Shalom in San Francisco downgraded full-time cantor jobs to part-time, usually lay, positions.

The Reform movement hasn't experienced the same job crunch as the Conservatives.

Barbara Ostfeld, the head

of the American Conference of Cantors, said 44 Reform congregations were looking for cantors in the past year – a number that has held steady for six or seven years. Most offer full-time positions.

In the Orthodox movement, the use of cantors long has been in decline. Full-time cantorial positions are rare, as most congregations have a surfeit of laymen to lead services.

The job crisis in the Conservative movement was a major topic of discussion at the national convention of the movement's Cantors Assembly this summer in upstate New York.

"There are more cantors looking than congregations hiring," said Robert Scherr, the placement director for the Cantors Assembly, who places about 20 cantors per year among the movement's 760 affiliated synagogues.

In June, eight students graduated from the Jewish Theological Seminary's H.L. Miller Cantorial School. For the first time, two have not found jobs, noted the school's dean, Henry Rosenblum.

Cantor Scherr cites many reasons for the change. Among them are cantors with full-time jobs are retiring later and large congregations that are shrinking cannot afford to replace departing cantors.

Another reason, he says: Some congregations in a financial position to hire a second clergy member choose an assistant rabbi over a cantor because, well, anyone can sing.

With supply outpacing demand, congregations are picky.

"Everybody wants someone 30 years old with 20 years of experience," Cantor Scherr said.

The Cantors Assembly is fighting the trend. Recently, it began reaching out to Conservative congregations looking to hire a second rabbi and asking them to consider a cantor instead.

The sell is to have cantors do more than sing. The assembly argues that cantors can lead a congregation's religious school instead of an assistant rabbi, and usually are paid less.

"We are proposing to eongregations that they think more broadly," Cantor Scherr said.

The Rabbinical Assembly (RA), the professional association of Conservative rabbis, is giving the move a diplomatic nod.

"I don't have a problem with it," said Rabbi Elliot Schoenberg, who heads the RA's placement division. "The Cantors Assembly should advocate for their people."

I think synagogues should have cantors. A rabbi and a cantor is a good thing."

The key is for cantors to expand their marketability by increasing their job skills.

Cantors in all the liberal movements are expected to do more than lead services and train Bar/Bat Mitzvah students. More often they must teach adult education classes, train conversion candidates, perform pastoral duties, run summer camps and work in administration.

"The cantor-slash has become the reality, whether it's the cantor/music director, the cantor/religious school director – whatever," Cantor Rosenblum said. "It's the hybrid, the cantor who is strong in synagogue skills, can read Torah and teach others to read Torah, who will make the best contributor."

Cantorial students are aware of these changes, and many welcome them.

"I have enough tools in my skill set," said Ellen Arad, a fourth-year student at the Miller School who considers herself primarily a teacher. (Continued on page 39)

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John Holzman wishing you continued good health by Barbara & David Slipoff

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Mayer Alvo Yashar Kouch on receiving the 2008 Shem Tov Community Volunteer Award by Valerie & Gaby Terkel & by Ketty & Morris Samuel

Marcia Anger on your 85th Birthday by Rosalie, Harold, Leah, Josh & Naomi Schwartz

Elaine & Jack Barkin congratulations on the recent engagement of your daughter Sanaitha by Murray & Bryna Cohen & family

Norman Barwin congratulations on your special Birthday by the Cates Gordon/Good family

Dick Bell on your special birthday by Fern Goldman, Anielle & Elie

Daniel Lorraine & Adam Bentley on the occasion of Daniel's birthday, Lorraine & Daniel's anniversary & Adam's graduation, by Rose & Rubin Friedman

Daniel Bentley on the occasion of your 60th Birthday by the Consultation Service PPC

Laurie Boschman thank you for your contribution to the Breakfast of Champions by the Soloway JCC

Beth Shalom Congregation Kingston by Gail Larabee

Bob Flovelling on the occasion of your retirement by Fern Goldman & some others.

Ruth & Harry Frackson in appreciation by Sylvia & Amnon Pasher

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Ari Goldberg congratulations on receiving the George Cooper Scholarship by Mrs. Heilman

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Norman Ironstone on your 65th Birthday by Molly, Susan, William & Marley Greenberg

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The Machon Sarah 2008 Graduating Class by Tecia Hendelstein

Edwin & Natalie Ornish thank you for your southern hospitalities by Myra, Adrian & L.J. Brachfield

Ian Schacter Thank you for helping with the Yankee tickets by Mich Miller

Glenda & Dave Segal on your special birthdays by Fern Goldman, Anielle & Elie

Bernard Ship on Fathers Day, by Donna, Jeff, William, Lily, Danny, Jess & Shivan

Gwen & David Tessler in appreciation by Sylvia & Amnon Pasher

Ruth & Bud Wolochow on your 60th anniversary by Sylvia & Amnon Pasher

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Please accept our apologies if we misspelled or omitted anyone's name or contribution.

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Collective effort by translators helps bring early Holocaust memoir into English

By Dan Goldberg
SYDNEY (JTA) – Like Primo Levi and Elie Wiesel, Rafael Rajzner was one of the few Holocaust survivors who chronicled his traumatic experience in the years soon after the war, when most survivors stayed silent. But, unlike those authors, Rajzner's harrowing, 324-page eyewitness account of the liquidation of Bialystoker Jewry was never translated into English. His memoir, *Der Unikum Fun Bialistoker Yidntum* (The Annihilation of Bialystoker Jewry), was published in Melbourne in Yiddish in 1948. It was the first memoir by a Holocaust survivor published in Australia.

Now, however, the book has come out in English. Rajzner, who survived Auschwitz but lost his entire family, was one of the counterfeiterers at Sachsenhausen made famous by the Austrian film, *The Counterfeiterers*, the 2008 Academy Award winner for Best Foreign Film.

The largest city in northeast Poland, Bialystok was once home to 60,000 Jews, only about 1,000 of whom survived the Nazis. Rajzner was one of them.

When he died in 1953 at age 56, all hopes evaporated that his work, scribbled into notebooks at war's end, would ever be translated into English.

Sixty years on, the English translation was launched at the Melbourne

International Writers' Festival on August 24 and a documentary about the book will be screened on Australian TV on October 12.

The translation was the brainchild of Henry Lew, born in the Bialystok Centre in Melbourne, a way-station for Jewish refugees, around the exact time Rajzner's book was published in 1948.

"I have no doubt that, had Rajzner still been alive, and had it been translated in 1960 or 1961, it would have become a very famous book," Lew told JTA. "Nobody looked at Primo Levi or Elie Wiesel until the 1960s."

Levi's book, *If This is a Man*, was first published in 1947 in his native Italian. It took Wiesel until the mid-1950s to complete his first version of *Night*, which was published in Yiddish. Neither book was widely read until they were translated into English.

Lew was first introduced to Rajzner's book in 2001 by his 95-year-old father, Leo, a Bialystoker who said he regretted that Rajzner's book didn't reach a wider audience.

"Rajzner told my father how a lot of his family died," Lew said. "When he died in 2002, I found the book."

Lew's Yiddish was not good enough to translate it, but the idea percolated at the back of his mind for a couple of years until he

stumbled across Aaron Lansky's book, *Outwitting History*, which describes how a secular Jewish student devoted his life to retrieving Yiddish books.

"I was very inspired by Lansky's book," says Lew, who emailed the author in 2004 for names of Yiddish translators.

Lansky provided 55 names, all of whom received a letter from Lew asking if they would translate 10 pages of Rajzner's book.

Lew amassed an army of 22 "righteous translators" from the United States, Canada and Australia.

One of them, Mindle Crystel Gross, from Florida, had never heard of Rajzner. But she agreed to help when she learned about the memoir.

"It was absolutely necessary to have his memoir translated into English, especially because it was an eyewitness account," she says.

Another translator, Rabbi Edward Zerlin, from San Francisco, is the son of a Bialystoker who left Poland before the First World War.

"All such stories need to be told," he said. "We dare not forget."

A third translator, Jack Berger, from New Jersey, a former vice-president of

Citibank, has translated similar books.

"It isn't easy," he says. "Sometimes, you have to stop, walk away and come back days later."

Arnold Zable, an award-winning Australian author whose father was a Bialystoker, is promoting the book, which Lew self-published under the title *The Stories Our Parents Found Too Painful to Tell*.

Rajzner told Zable's father that he witnessed his parents being shot into a mass grave.

"My father said it was unbearable, but he was so grateful he had an eyewitness account," Zable says, noting that the book lists more than 200 names of Bialystokers.

"He lists names. He's named the streets. It's a kind of Schindler's List in that way. It's got that personal aspect to it. He was bearing witness. It's an extraordinary document."

Lew, an ophthalmologist who has written three other books, says the project took four years.

"I started another book on Bialystok based around my family," he says. "But I put it aside because I wanted the translators to be alive by the time Rajzner's translation was finished."

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Super Bowl champ to visit Chabad of Centreponte

By Rabbi Chaim Mendelsohn

Alan Veingrad, a former National Football League (NFL) offensive lineman who helped the Dallas Cowboys capture the 1993 Super Bowl championship, will be the special guest at a Shabbaton presented by Chabad of Centreponte from September 19 to 21.

Veingrad spent seven seasons in the NFL. After five years with the Green Bay Packers, he was signed to the Dallas Cowboys and awarded a \$1.4 million contract. He spent two years with Dallas and retired after the Super Bowl win.

Veingrad now lives the life of a religious Jew. Based in Florida, he's a member of Chabad Lubavitch of Coral Springs.

At six foot five, he towers over the other congregants and is often called upon to hoist the heavy Torah scroll over his head, a feat he accomplishes with ease.

Those same long, mighty

arms used to shove aside NFL defensive linemen to clear space for the likes of Troy Aikman and Emmitt Smith. He was awarded won five Game Balls during his career for game-winning performances.

"It's hard being a professional football player", says Veingrad. "It's harder still being a Jewish football player."

His road to playing in the NFL began at East Texas State University where he was the only Jewish student and where there was no Jewish community. He recalls being proselytized and often sat through Christian team prayer meetings before games.

But, says Veingrad, "I always retained a strong sense of Jewish dignity and pride."

After graduation, Veingrad was signed by the Green Bay Packers and spent five seasons with the team.

"The Jewish community of Green Bay, though small,



Former NFL star Alan Veingrad with his children.

(Photo: alanveingrad.com)

sustained me and helped me survive the isolation of being the only Jew on the team," he says. "At pre-game sessions, when my teammates would join hands and recite the Lord's

Prayer, I would say my own silent prayer, a Jewish prayer."

In the rough and tumble environment of the NFL, a Jew is an outsider and being Jewish left him open to a fair amount of good natured ribbing and kidding; more, he says, the by-product of insensitivity than of malice.

After winning the Super Bowl in 1993, the newly married Veingrad decided to retire and spend more time at home.

But, like many professional athletes who become reliant on the structure and

motivation provided by their coaches, Veingrad felt lost when the cheering stopped.

A cousin invited him for Shabbat dinner and thus began his metamorphosis. After spending most of his life in a violent, macho world, Veingrad was intrigued by the simpler, gentler way of life of observant Judaism.

He went to Israel and came back wearing a kippah and calling himself "Shlomo," his Hebrew name. He was a man transformed.

"I loved the games, the

challenge, the competition," he said. "I was a very intense player, and I loved Sundays. There is nothing like it, you can't replace that feeling of coming out of a tunnel in Green Bay, beautiful blue sky, 50 degrees, the smell of beer and brats in the air. But I get a charge from different things now."

Veingrad's charge now comes from travelling the world to share his story and inspire others to live a more fulfilled and meaningful life.

The Shabbaton begins on Friday, September 19 at 6:30 pm when Chabad of Centreponte will host an elegant Shabbat dinner featuring Veingrad speaking on the topic, "From Super Bowl to Super Jew."

On Saturday evening, he will be speaking for teens and college students at an event organized by Chabad Student Network and, on Sunday afternoon, men and children are invited to Chabad of Centreponte to watch a football game with him on a huge TV screen while enjoying a fantastic tailgate party with a delicious barbecue and cold beer. Children will have the opportunity to get his autograph, try on his Super Bowl ring and throw around a football with him.

For more information or to reserve a spot for these events, visit chabadcentreponte.com.

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To My Friends in
Ottawa's Jewish Community

JOHN
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Getting Things Done
for Ottawa West-Nepean



Best cantors continue to get jobs

(Continued from page 34)

"Part of re-envisioning the cantorship means there are other things you can do besides pulpit work."

To meet these new needs, the Miller School is overhauling its curriculum for the first time in 50 years. The changes are still being considered, but certainly will include greater emphasis on a wider range of professional skills.

Some cantorial schools already have made the shift.

At the trans-denominational Hebrew College in Boston, cantorial students also are trained as Jewish educators, said Scott Sokol, the director of the college's cantor-educator program.

"Most cantors are Jewish educators anyway, but they play the role more from instinct than by training," he said.

The Reform movement, too, faces increased congregational expectations.

The School of Sacred Music at the Hebrew Union College (HUC)-Jewish Institute of Religion has beefed up its professional development courses to include training in pastoral counselling and adult education. And, because Reform congregations often expect their cantors

to organize and lead bands, this fall the school will offer an elective in music arranging and orchestration.

Even more than Conservative congregations, Reform synagogues want their cantors to sing tunes they, too, can belt out.

Of the 50 reports Cantor Ostfeld received this summer from search committees at Reform congregations, 85 per cent said encouraging congregants to participate was "very important" in their decision to hire a particular cantor. The only factor listed as more important was "warmth and approachability."

Conservative and Reform cantorial school administrators say the popularity of sing-along prayer services does not mean their schools will teach less *nusach*, only that they are expanding their curricula to include a wider range of styles.

Last year, HUC hired popular singer-songwriter Debbie Friedman to teach on its cantorial faculty – a move widely interpreted as the stamp of professional approval for Friedman's style of sing-along worship. Friedman's first year "worked out beautifully," said Bruce Ruben, the director of the cantorial school.

Yet, Cantor Ruben insisted, the traditional approach is still important.

"The style today emphasizes intimacy, personal involvement, 'my' experience in the prayer service," Cantor Ruben said. "There's a whole other element in worship – the awe, the sense of mystery – that is completely missing. Clapping along isn't all that Jewish music is about."

Even in a tight job market, the best cantors continue to get jobs, movement leaders say.

Asa Fradkin, who graduated from the Miller School in 2007 and was hired as the cantor at Temple Shalom in Greenwich, Connecticut, said all the well-qualified candidates in the class ahead of him found jobs.

There's "still room in the synagogues for highly trained, professional cantors," he said.

Cantor Rosenblum says a professional brings something beyond just knowing how to sing.

"When a layperson leads the service, they're thinking: 'What are the tunes to sing here?' The davning falls by the wayside," he said. "The professional takes both into consideration."

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, a Reform synagogue in San Francisco, hired its first full-time cantor last October.

The decision was not arrived at



Reform Cantors Tracey Scher, Regina Lambert-Hayut and Amy Daniels perform at Kehillat Mevasseret Zion near Jerusalem.

(Photo: Debra I. Danner)

lightly, said Alex Ingersoll, a co-chair of the search committee. Some people wanted an assistant rabbi, as the congregation had a key group of community leaders with musical training who were adept at leading services.

"There was some resistance," Ingersoll acknowledged. "People asked, 'Does this mean we won't be on the bimah? Is this a statement that we are not good enough?'"

The cantor eventually began teaching cantorial music to the com-

munity leaders.

"She brings an extraordinary *ruach* and joy to the service that is rubbing off on other service leaders," Ingersoll said. "There's a lot more attention to the prayers. It's not just, 'Now we turn to page this or that.'"

That's what the right cantor can bring to a congregation, Cantor Rosenblum says.

"We are not just musical adornment," he said. "We are the vehicle that can help people access the spiritual in their lives."

2008 - 2009 CALENDAR OF JEWISH HOLIDAYS 5769

YIDOR

**ROSH
HASHANAH**
SEPT 30
& OCT 1

**FAST OF
GEDALIAH**
OCTOBER
2

**YOM
KIPPUR**
OCTOBER
9*

SUCCOT
1st & 2nd
OCTOBER
14 & 15

**HOSHANA
RABAH**
OCTOBER
20

**SHEMINI
ATZERET**
OCTOBER
21*

**SIMCHAT
TORAH**
OCTOBER
22

CHANUKAH
DECEMBER
22 TO 29

**FAST
9TH TISHA
B'AV**
JULY 30

**FAST
17th
TAMMUZ**
JULY 9

SHAVUOT
MAY
29 & 30*

**LAG
BA'OMER**
MAY 12

**YOM
HA'ATZMAUT**
APRIL 29

**YOM
HAZIKARON**
APRIL 28

**YOM
HASHOAH**
APRIL 21

PESACH
7th & 8th
APRIL
15 & 16*

PESACH
2nd DAY
APRIL 10

PESACH
1st DAY
APRIL 9

PURIM
MARCH
10

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Section Two

Shalom, L'hitraot and au revoir Canada

By Alan Baker

Editor's note: Alan Baker, Israel's ambassador to Canada for the past four years, and his wife, Dalia, were familiar figures at Ottawa Jewish community events. Ambassador Baker wrote this farewell article before departing Ottawa for Israel last week.

After four years as Israel's ambassador to Canada, the time has come to pack up our bags and return to Israel.

In many ways, this is both a sad and happy time. We are sad to be leaving so many good friends, made during the course of our living in Ottawa, as well as throughout Canada. It is sad to give up an extensive framework of solid political contacts in government, Parliament, as well as among the leadership and members of the various Canadian communities, especially the Christian and First Nations communities. It is no less sad to say farewell to the many Jewish communities throughout Canada, large and small, that we have had the honour to visit and who have hosted us in such a warm manner, as true family. It is sad to leave Canada after working hard to build up political support and good contacts in Canada's government, and seeing the fruits of such support in the relationship between Canada and Israel.

We are sad to leave a country endowed with boundless beauty in all its provinces and territories, and a people so warm, welcoming and justifiably proud of their achievements in building such a country.

But, on the other hand, we are intensely happy to be returning to Israel, our home, to our family and friends, and to breathe the air of Israel. We have missed Israel from the first moment of our arrival in Canada, and the dramatic events that have accompanied our presence in Canada – culminating,

perhaps, in the Second Lebanon War in the summer of 2006 – have only strengthened our longing to be home. We too have beauty in our land, and intense pride in our achievements.

Above all, it is gratifying for an ambassador to be able to report home that the government of the country to which he or she is accredited solidly supports Israel, both in word and deed. Not many Israeli ambassadors are in the position to do that. I, as ambassador to Canada, have been proud to be able to say that such a development occurred during my term.

No less gratifying for an ambassador is the increase in bilateral commerce between our two countries, both in the public, inter-governmental sector, as well as in the private sector. To this should be added the positive results of a major effort by myself, together with some dedicated persons in the Canadian legal and business community, to re-establish the Canada-Israel Chamber of Commerce as a body intended to facilitate commercial contacts between Canadians and Israelis, with a view to doing good business.

It is equally gratifying to see the supportive Jewish community of Canada that, while not always united internally, nevertheless unites to support Israel and shows affection on Israel's diplomatic representatives. The firm link between Canada's Jews and Israel is an example for all Diaspora Jewry.

However, perhaps one frustration has been an unexplained reticence on the part of some of the major Jewish community organizations and some Israel advocacy groups, to maintain other than cursory contact with the Israel embassy and ambassador, in order to mutually and reciprocally exchange views on developments

in the respective spheres of activity. Despite efforts to forge such contact, and the resultant updating, co-operation and co-ordination that could be so mutually beneficial – especially in periods of tension in the Middle East – such has not materialized, and still remains an area for improvement.

But, in departing Canada, I sense that the most worrying and frustrating spectre that is looming upon all of us, is the ongoing and continuously growing wave of hostile, anti-Israel activity on major Canadian campuses generated by and among the more extreme Muslim and left-wing political organizations. This, regrettably, is now even enveloping some Jewish students and academic staff with its intensity and outreach.

Having attempted to reach most campuses during the course of our travels throughout Canada and to meet and address students in all spheres – Jewish and gentile – and to face this hostility head-on, I have observed, over the years, an ever-increasing tendency by organized anti-Israel groups to impose their will on the university administrations, on the general student population, to propagandize, to prevent open discussion and to insult those who attempt to defend Israel and present positions favouring Israel. I myself have been subjected to ugly and sometimes insulting and even violent demonstrations and interruptions by these groups.

Today's students are tomorrow's leaders – leaders of Canada, parliamentarians, religious, business and social leaders. Similarly, today's Jewish students are tomorrow's community leadership. Minds and views are molded during the period of studies at university. The Jewish community has a duty to itself, to invest as the major priority, whatever effort,



Ambassador Alan and Dalia Baker, familiar figures at Ottawa Jewish community events for the last four years, have departed and returned to Israel

resources, time and attention is necessary to ensure that the Jewish students have the support, the tools and the basic requirements to be able to face the growing challenges on campus, in a proud and confident manner, devoid of fear and apprehension. That is not just financial assistance, but a proactive willingness on the part of all members of the major organizations in the community – including the leadership – to go to the universities, to take part in the debates and the demonstrations, to write articles in the press and to give the Jewish student bodies on every campus the active and real support that they need – in word and in deed.

The ongoing introspection involved in the various controversies that divide parts of the community, and the tendency of some major elements within the community to prefer to concentrate on organizing fundraising events for this or that organization, or to honour this or that community leader (which in itself is doubtless important), sometimes has the effect of shadowing, or downgrading the

resources, time and attention is necessary to ensure that the Jewish students have the support, the tools and the basic requirements to be able to face the growing challenges on campus, in a proud and confident manner, devoid of fear and apprehension. That is not just financial assistance, but a proactive willingness on the part of all members of the major organizations in the community – including the leadership – to go to the universities, to take part in the debates and the demonstrations, to write articles in the press and to give the Jewish student bodies on every campus the active and real support that they need – in word and in deed.

gaping need for help on the campuses, as the major community priority. My call to unite and help the Jewish students in Canadian universities is an earnest and heartfelt appeal, and in my humble opinion requires a serious and urgent re-adjustment of community priorities and a uniting of efforts by all organizations. The Hebrew expression, *benafsheynu* (in our souls) perhaps well-describes the significance and importance of giving priority to the Jewish student bodies on campus.

And so, in departing Canada, our second home, we will be taking a part of Canada with us to Israel. Canada has instilled in us the importance and vitality of a strong and warm Diaspora community as an integral part of our Jewish being and as a reassurance to Israel and Israelis that we are not alone. We remain one large family. *Kol Yisrael Haverim!*

May Canada and the Canadian Jewish Community continue to go from strength to strength.

Shalom, L'hitraot and au revoir, Canada.

Veteran volunteers say it's a 'way of life'

By Benita Siemiatycki

At 20 years of age and the mother of a newborn, Rickie Saslove was asked to run Hadasah's Milk Fund campaign, a large city-wide fundraiser.

"I was 20 years old. What did I know from all that," she remembers asking herself. But the call to help out was greater and thus began a lifelong career of volunteering.

Following the legacy of her grandmother and mother, both of whom volunteered for community organizations in Montreal and Toronto, Rickie and her husband Marty have given their time and energy to countless Jewish and non-Jewish organizations. Hillel Academy, where she served lunch to students, Rideau View Golf Club, Canadian National Institute for the Blind (CNIB), Corona Gymnastics Club and B'nai Brith have all benefitted from their efforts.

An avid sewer, Rickie even made the costumes for plays put on by B'nai Brith. When B'nai Brith raised funds to support the new Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario, daughter Sharon Schwartz says, "I well remember going into her sewing room and salivating at the two dolls perched on stands, while she [Rickie] tirelessly sewed the outfits that would be raffled off with the dolls. This is a memory forever etched in my mind."

Participating in the first Canadian Women's Mission to Israel in 1976 moved Rickie to really get involved in the Jewish community. Her connection with Hillel Lodge began when her friend, Sarah



Volunteering at Hillel Lodge is part of the daily routine for Rickie (left) and Marty Saslove. (OJB photo: Benita Siemiatycki)

Swedler, was appointed president of the downtown Hillel Lodge Women's Auxiliary 20 years ago and asked Rickie to join.

She jumped into the Lodge Auxiliary without hesitation and has since held several positions in the Auxiliary. She is also a co-manager of the Hillel Lodge Gift Shop, along with Lillian Zunder and Ray Goldstein, all three of whom were instrumental in getting the shop off

the ground.

A talented artist as well, Rickie placed several of her art pieces in the shop at its opening because there was not enough merchandise to fill the store. That's how her 3-D artwork began to gain a following in Ottawa.

But according to Stephen Schneiderman, executive director of the Bess and Moe Greenberg Family Hillel Lodge in the Joseph

and Inez Zelikovitz Long Term Care Centre, Rickie's real claim to fame is her donation of time to Hillel Lodge.

"For Rickie, it's all in the family. The Auxiliary Gift Shop is one of her babies," he says.

According to Rickie, husband Marty deserves just as much credit. Side by side, they're a tag team who will jump at the chance to help.

"He's been wonderful, my husband. He would drive when we needed it. Whatever needed to be done, he would do for us. Even recently, he took residents from the Lodge shopping."

Marty has also offered his services as a volunteer driver for the CNIB and has a simple explanation of why he gets involved: "She enjoys it, so I enjoy it."

Spending afternoons at the Lodge, visiting and chatting with residents, has become a daily routine for the Sasloves. If a resident needs something, Rickie or Marty get it.

"It's a whole way of life now," says Rickie.

The social aspect has become just as important. Several volunteers, all long-time friends, get together daily. And those friendships have expanded to include the residents of the Lodge.

In describing their family, the pride is apparent. The Sasloves have two daughters, Rhoda Saslove-Miller and Sharon Schwartz, and four grandchildren aged 16 to 25, all of whom they see often.

Rickie and Marty urge anyone with extra time to volunteer for a

cause that is meaningful to them.

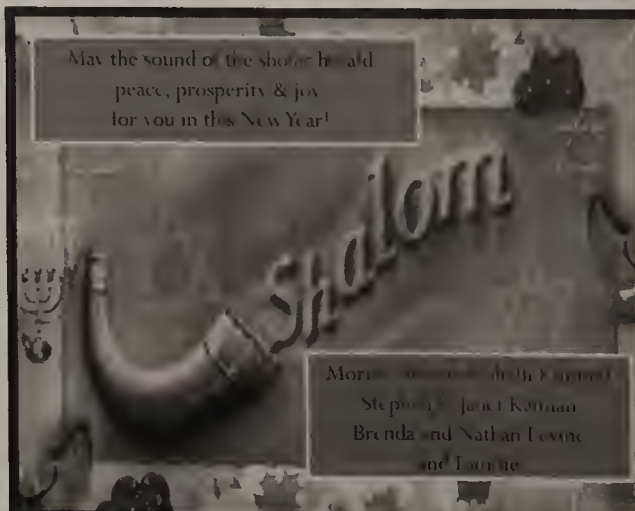
"People have to find their niche. They should attempt to volunteer in different areas. The activity that gives them the most satisfaction is where they should maintain that type of connection," says Rickie, adding "I can't fathom anyone not giving of themselves for a worthwhile cause."

Benita Siemiatycki of the Jewish Ottawa InfoCentre profiles community volunteers in the Bulletin. Many organizations are in desperate need of volunteers. Call the InfoCentre at 613-798-4644 for information.

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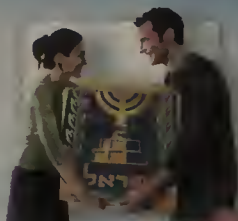
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Israeli, Palestinian and Canadian teens bond through dialogue and filmmaking at special camp

By Jeremy Izso

Editor's note: This summer 30 teenagers – 10 Canadians, 10 Israelis and 10 Palestinians – participated in Peace It Together, a three-week camp program for 16- to 18-year-olds in peace, dialogue and filmmaking. Among them was Jeremy Izso, 17, of Ottawa who filed this report for the Bulletin.

More than 800 people were in attendance at the Stanley Theatre in Vancouver on Sunday, August 21 for the premiere of eight short films made over the previous three weeks by the participants of the Peace It Together program. I was fortunate to participate in this incredible experience on Bowen Island, BC along with 10 Palestinians, 10 Israelis and nine other Canadians.

Peace It Together is a program for youth interested in peaceful coexistence, dialogue, and filmmaking focused on the Israel-

Palestinian conflict and the hope for peace. This program is partially funded by the Stephen Spielberg Foundation and has been featured on CBC and CTV and in the *New York Times*. Peace It Together also works with the Daniel Pearl Foundation which arranges media internships for many of the Israeli and Palestinian graduates.

It was an amazing experience. For the first time in my life, I worked with an Israeli and a Palestinian in an intense environment making a movie and discussing peace, fear, hope and life.

Standing in front of the 800 people at the premiere, I thought about the life-changing experience that I had just gone through and began to realize how much I would come to miss the truly amazing people I had met and the time we spent together.

When I first heard about Peace It Together, I wasn't really interested. The only



Sitting in a circle, Israeli, Palestinian and Canadian teenagers at the Peace It Together camp discuss difficult issues.

reason I applied was that my dad nagged me about it for weeks. After a phone interview, I was invited to be a participant in the program.

We spent the first week and a half of the camp immersed in long and intense dialogue sessions. As a Canadian, my role was to listen to the others and try to

understand the points of views of both the Israelis and the Palestinians. I heard some very shocking stories and met some truly inspiring people.

One person who really inspired me was Mahmoud Jabari, a 17-year-old Palestinian. Living in Hebron, Mahmoud is a certified young journalist – through the Daniel Pearl World Youth News Network – who has participated in peace camps such as Seeds of Peace. Mahmoud believes that youth should have their own voice in the media. I agree.

There were two stories I heard that really struck me.

One of the Israelis began to talk about his experiences with the conflict. At first he

was hesitant, but after a moment of silence, he told everyone about how his best friend's father had died when a Katyusha rocket landed in his kibbutz a year earlier.

Shortly after, a Palestinian boy raised his hand and shared his own personal story. He told us about how one day he and his friend decided to go downtown and hang out. On the way, his friend saw a bunch of Israeli soldiers and decided to throw a rock at them in anger. "Five minutes later," he said, "my best friend died in my arms."

Amazingly, I saw those two boys become best friends over the three weeks. The Israeli and the Palestinian had to struggle to say goodbye at

the end of the program.

Before I left home to go to the camp, my mom had phoned Reena Lazar, the executive director of Peace It Together, to ask what to expect. She told my mom that I would return home a changed man.

On the last day of camp, Reena asked if I felt I was any different. I replied that I thought I was a more complete person. I could now see that people, no matter how different, or far away they are, are all looking for the same thing: freedom.

The film premiere was a smashing success. Afterward, we all returned to our homes in Canada, Israel and the Palestinian territories.

Back home, we connect through the Internet and act as ambassadors for Peace It Together by showcasing our movies and discussing our experiences, elaborating on the context and events leading up to the making of each film.

I am committed to showcasing the Peace It Together films and to discussing the program at small gatherings in homes and at community events. Contact me at 613-762-3443 or jeremeister@hotmail.com. I promise that you'll be as inspired as I am.

For more information on Peace It Together, visit peaceittogether.ca.

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The Alef-Bet, a combination restaurant and kosher cooking school.

Travel: The sights and tastes of Jewish Paris

By Russell Consor

Paris in the spring: the Eiffel Tower, the Grand boulevards, the shopping, of course. But a Yiddish Cultural Center and a kosher cooking school? *Mais oui* – if you know where to look.

Although Paris has not always been a hospitable place for Jews, there has been a continuous Jewish presence in Paris since at least the sixth century.

A large Ashkenazi population still exists, but there is a palpable Sephardic flavour to Jewish Paris. It is a city where you can walk into a kosher North African restaurant and still hear a mélange of French and Arabic.

I love Paris and for my second visit there, I wanted to experience the sights, sounds, and, especially, the tastes of Jewish Paris; a world bursting with exotic flavours.

"The Sephardim made the city Jewish again," said Susan Susskind, a transplant from Brooklyn who moved to Paris in 1970 and never looked back. I met her and her husband when they sat next to us at Lotus de Nissan, a quaint, glatt kosher Chinese restaurant.

Madame Lafond, the Orthodox proprietor, opened Lotus 23 years ago after she "got tired of going to the same place in Monometer all

the time after Torah classes." She assured me that a Chinese woman, Madame Tao, now the manager, had adapted all the restaurant's recipes from authentic Chinese versions, even substituting faux shrimp for the real thing.

The next day, we headed to the St. Germain area, home of posh shops, the famed Deux Magots Café and, nearby, the Alef-Bet Restaurant and kosher cooking school, a delightful and funky place owned by two vibrant young Jewish women of mixed Ashkenazi and Sephardic heritage, for a kosher cooking class.

Our teacher, Sarah, had been trained at the École Supérieure de Cuisine Française which, according to her, is where real French chefs train.

"Cordon Bleu is for foreigners," she explained.

She taught us to prepare a simple, but satisfying, brunch of Israeli salad, zaatar (a mixture of thyme, sesame seeds and oregano) spiced scrambled eggs, mini pitas and French style rugelach (lighter and longer, instead of the dense little pieces you usually find).

After polishing off most of the meal, I spoke to Elya Trigano, one of the owners.

Elya, who had previously worked in advertising, explained that she had always

loved cooking and wanted to open a stylish, fun, kosher place. A Jewish architect designed the minimalist interior with a wall of cut out shelves meant to evoke

(Continued on page 53)



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In search of the Yiddish voice still whispering in Lithuania

By Rokhl Kafrissen
VILNIUS. Lithuania (JTA) – Months ago, I decided that, as a loud and insistent partisan on behalf of Yiddish language and culture, I should improve my spoken Yiddish.

It would be this summer or never.

I had just left my job as a corporate attorney and time, if not money, was on my side. I was newly employed as the part-time Internet/outreach/youth-wrangling editor for a Jewish culture and politics magazine with a traditionally Yiddish speaking (intensely, and devoutly secular) readership.

I managed to convince my employers at Jewish Currents that not only was it necessary to spend more than a month in a language immersion program, but also that my trip to *Yiddishland* would generate plentiful material for upcoming issues.

So off I went to the Vilnius Yiddish Institute's summer Yiddish program in Vilnius, Lithuania. Vilna – I never

referred to it as Vilnius – was a place about which I had sung, read and attended lectures. Last April, I sat in the office of a colleague, a woman much wiser than I, and told her I would be going to Vilna this summer to perfect my understanding of Yiddish case endings. There's only three, so I figured a month would be enough.

Vilna! Yiddish! Wasn't it cool?

My colleague looked at me dryly, as only she can. "Vilna is no more," she said. "There is only Vilnius, bahe."

But for me, and for all my Yiddishist friends, Vilna is a very real place. Vilna was the home of great modernist Yiddish poetry, of important Jewish publishing houses, the birthplace of the YIVO Institute, the resting place of the Vilna Gaon.

For those of us left cold by the clapping and swaying of Upper West Side *neo-Chasids*, the idea of Vilna is a comforting touchstone, home of the traditional opponents



The Old Jewish Cemetery in Vilnius.

(Photo: Holocaust Research Project)

of the *Chasidim*; the *Misnagdim*.

Although my own family is solidly Romanian, I am regularly in touch with what I call my inner-Litvak: the cerebral, slightly aloof Jew who shies away from Friday night swaying at shul.

I was personally offended

by the suggestion that Vilna no longer existed.

But my colleague turned out to be right. Vilna is no longer. Today, Vilnius speaks loudly. Jewish Vilna is only a whisper heard by those who care to listen closely. Indeed, the dissonances between Vilna and Vilnius ripple

across the country, and the globe.

But first, some clarification: The city we know by its Lithuanian name, Vilnius, once was part of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth. Until the close of the Second World War, Vilna/Wilno (Yiddish/Polish) was a

majority Polish and Yiddish-speaking city. Lithuanian speakers were always a small fraction of its population.

After the war, under Soviet occupation, Vilna became Vilnius. Compared to Latvia and Estonia, Lithuania mostly resisted *Russification* and had a relatively small Russian population.

Lithuania has been independent for less than 20 years and is still in the process of writing its national history – and myths.

The competing histories of Vilna and Vilnius – Lithuanian, Polish and Yiddish – erupted this spring and summer with an international scandal surrounding the Lithuanian 'investigation' of Jewish former partisans for their wartime activities.

The official conflation of anti-Nazi activity with pro-Soviet collaboration is still alive in Vilnius and lies at the heart of the investigation.

And so, in addition to pondering the difference between the accusative and the dative (Continued on page 47)

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Voices join to ensure Jewish Vilna endures

(Continued from page 46)

case, I unexpectedly found myself right in the middle of an international story – my first as a real journalist.

The Vilnius Yiddish Institute sits across the street from the Presidential Palace: you can practically see the changing of the guard from the classroom windows. The institute's librarian, Fania Brantsovsky, was a partisan during the war and for the past few months has been targeted by the Lithuanian justice system.

Perhaps the fiercest librarian ever to catalogue a Yiddish book, I quickly learned that Fania, 86, was not a woman to be intimidated by anything, even a prosecutor's investigation.

Even among Vilnius' small remaining Jewish community, Fania is unusual. She was born and raised in Vilnius – many of the approximately 4,500 to 5,000 current Jewish residents were born outside Vilnius. When Fania guides us through the city, she takes us to the place where her former school, the Sofia Gurevitch Gymnazia, was located. Sofia Gurevitch was one of the first places to have a telephone. Being chosen to speak on the phone was an honour for the student with the clearest, most pleasant voice. Fania still beams with pride at the memory of being that student.

A few streets over, Fania points to where she and the other partisans emerged from under ground. They escaped from the ghetto through the sewers, a daring plan made possible only by the specialized knowledge of another partisan, an engineer.

A few streets later and we see a plaque dedicated to Theodor Herzl, who, we learn, spent a short time in Vilna. But there's no plaque marking the spot where Fania and her comrades emerged from the sewers to go on to complete many acts of daring sabotage against the Nazis.

The Lithuanian government's ability to adequately document and preserve the



Vilna Jews before the Holocaust.

(Photo: JTA/Margolis Family)

stories of the ghetto and Jewish resistance – and Jewish suffering – is seriously compromised by the continuing official association of anti-Nazi activity with Soviet oppression.

The Museum of Victims of Genocide in downtown Vilnius is housed in an enormous building, the former home of the Lithuanian KGB. Just as chilling as the recreated KGB surveillance mechanism are the museum's official silences. Ponar, where a large portion of Lithuanian Jewry was murdered, is nowhere to be found among the museum's genocide victims.

Over the course of three years, some 70,000 Jews were murdered at Ponar, a forest the Nazis used as a death factory, about six miles from Vilnius. Fania also led

us through Ponar, she herself a walking monument to resistance and survival.

Fania's voice remains as strong and clear as it was the day she was chosen to speak on the phone at the Sofia Gurevitch school. But hers is only one voice, too easily drowned out in a still-unsettled political discourse. The anti-Semitic graffiti sprayed across the Vilnius Jewish Community Centre on Tisha B'Av didn't take place in a vacuum.

The official Lithuanian narrative is one that shouts over voices of resistance, such as Fania's. But my colleagues at the Institute, Jews and non-Jews, from all over the world, including Lithuania, will continue to join our voices with Fania's, and so ensure that Jewish Vilna continues to have a voice.

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Family cookbook satisfies a hunger to recall the past

By Linda Morel

NEW YORK (JTA) – Judy Bart Kancigor is one of the rare Cinderella stories in publishing, beating the odds to earn a contract without contacts in the industry.

It all started with a spiral-bound volume of family recipes that would become *Cooking Jewish: 532 Great Recipes from the Rabinowitz Family*.

In 1996, Kancigor was a court reporter and about to become a grandmother when some aunts on her maternal grandmother's side of the family were declining.

"As Aunt Estelle's condition worsened, Aunt Sally was moving into assisted living," Kancigor recalls. "Aunt Hilda was on dialysis and Aunt Irene didn't know who I was when I called." She pauses.

"That's when it hit me – one generation was leaving while another one was coming. How would my grandchild know about the Rabinowitz family?"

Alarmed by this prospect, she wanted to give the baby a gift – the past on a plate.

"I wished I could reach my arms across the generations and somehow pass on a taste of the legacy that had been bequeathed to me," Kancigor



Cooking Jewish author Judy Bart Kancigor at work in her kitchen.
(Photo: cookingjewish.com)

says. "I decided to become a conduit. But I wondered what I wanted to impart besides Aunt Sally's apple cake and Aunt Irene's kugel. I want-

ed the next generation to know the stories, to know where we came from, to know our history."

It was a history seasoned with tantalizing foods. Cooking and eating were staples of Rabinowitz life.

Kancigor's maternal grandparents, Hinda and Harry Rabinowitz, had immigrated to New York City from Belarus, Russia, in 1907. In Queens, they raised seven children on shtetl fare, notably kishke and kreplach. Free from Cossack terror, they hoped their children would receive an education and succeed.

Their children thrived on foods Mama Hinda measured with a Yahrzeit glass. They spoke English, fulfilled their parents' dreams and never heard the hoof beats of Cossack horses.

Kancigor's mother and aunts carried the torch, cooking Old World favourites in their modern kitchens. They relied on Mama Hinda's handfuls of 'a little of this and that' to make black bread, potatoes and chicken soup as they simultaneously embraced Jell-O and sliced white bread, clipping trendy recipes from women's magazines.

Kancigor grew up in a two-family house downstairs from her grandparents. Her favourite pastime was

sitting on the front porch glider and listening to family stories. Like a piece of sponge cake, she soaked up anecdotes – Mama Hinda's cooking, too.

Her delicious memories became the motivation for preserving the family's legacy.

Early in the process, Kancigor enrolled in a cookbook writing seminar at UCLA. The teacher, cookbook author Norman Kolpas, asked students to describe their projects.

Among chefs, food writers and caterers, Kancigor was intimidated.

"Oh, I'm just writing a family cookbook," she mumbled.

Kolpas grew serious and pointed a finger at her.

"What you're doing is very important," she said. "Don't let anyone stop you."

Kancigor contacted relatives as she assembled an album of family recipes, stories and photos. Taking a huge gamble, she printed 500 copies of *Melting Pot Memories*. While her husband feared these spiral bound books would forever clutter their garage, she handed out copies at a nephew's Bar Mitzvah.

With minimal publicity, word spread about this self-published

(Continued on page 49)

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New cookbook helps tie generations together

(Continued from page 48)
book. *Melting Pot Memories* sold faster than honey cakes at Rosh Hashanah – sales reached 11,000 copies. Its overwhelming success landed her a book contract from Workman Press to write an expanded version, which became the recently published *Cooking Jewish*.

Along the way, Kancigor's son asked, "Why are people reading about our family?"

The simple answer: They are hungry for their forgotten past. In essence, the Rabinowitzes are every North American Jewish family.

"Although the Rabinowitz family is Ashkenazi, I wanted Sephardic dishes in my cookbook, too," Kancigor says. "If anyone had married into a Sephardic family, I was dying to include their foods."

She sought tales and recipes from relatives as far flung as in-laws of in-laws. The result is a nostalgic step back in time.

"Every Friday, my grandmother baked challah," Kancigor says. "My brother Gary and I could smell it waiting from upstairs."

At Rosh Hashanah, they would break off chunks and dip them in honey for a sweet New Year. Decades later in 1976, when Kancigor heard her grandmother was in intensive care, she was compelled to get the recipe for a challah that was as light as a cloud.

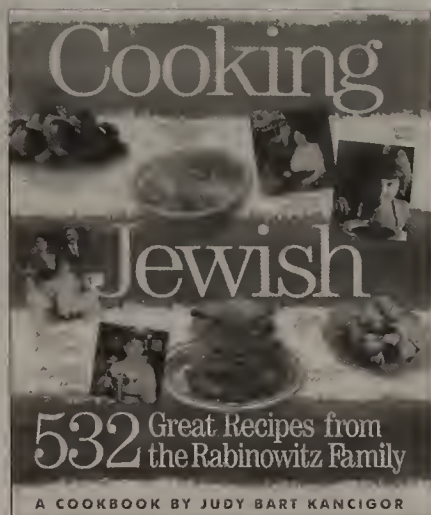
From her deathbed, 91-year-old Mama Hinda dictated its ingredients and instructions to Kancigor's mother, who wrote it down. The recipe would be set aside for years.

Assembling her cookbook, Kancigor tried the recipe. The results were disappointing.

"In her condition, perhaps Mama Hinda forgot to mention certain crucial things," she says.

Devastated, Kancigor took the recipe scribbled on scrap paper to a professional baker, who miraculously recreated the challah's exact taste.

"I had a Madeleine moment when I took my first bite," says Kancigor, admitting that the baker took a dif-



ferent route to arrive at the same place.

Since then Kancigor's first grandchild was born; three more have followed.

"They never knew Mama Hinda, but they've eaten her challah," she says. "It's tying the generations together."

"The thing I'm most proud of – even more than publishing a book – is collecting our family stories and recipes."

Jewish history is ongoing, she explains.

"By knowing where you came from, you can see what part your family played in it, whether it was from the Lower East Side to the suburbs, from the Holocaust to Los Angeles, or from peddler to investment banker," she says.

Kancigor is gratified that readers respond to her relatives as if they were characters in a novel. She encourages everyone to write a memoir cookbook.

"This Rosh Hashanah, you and your children are blazing into the 21st century with honey cake and challah, carrot kugel and sweet wine," she says.

The Jewish New Year is a time to contemplate the past while considering the future, a time to dig out old recipes; a time when cooking Jewish is cherished.

But those who've lost their grandparents' recipes could open Kancigor's cookbook and prepare a Rabinowitz favourite.

After all, they're family.

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Temple Israel sends unique baby quilts to Israeli families in need

By Minda Wershof
for Temple Israel

What happens when two retired teachers decide to use their new-found quilting skills for a good cause and to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the State of Israel? They stitch together a beautiful tapestry of *tzedakah* and organize a group of people, sewers and non-sewers alike, who donate fabric and volunteer time to make 60 baby quilts and have them transported to Israel by Ottawans travelling there between now and the end of

the anniversary year in April 2009.

The brainchild of Merle Haltrecht-Matte, the idea of making these beautiful coverlets for babies evolved after the success of a decorative quilt designed and made under the guidance and coordination of creative women to adorn the walls of Temple Israel. What followed was a serendipitous meeting of minds. Merle recruited the energetic Patsy Royer who provides creative designs, teaching methods, and has donated a mountain

of fabric from her own stash.

The quilts have been earmarked for families in need in Israel, particularly families in Northern Israel whose lives were affected by the Second Lebanon War two summers ago, or by terrorism.

Annette Paquin, who teaches high school students at the Temple Israel Religious School and who has accompanied Grade 10 classes on their trips there, is in contact with the families and delivered the first 20 quilts on her trip to Israel this summer. More will be delivered in October by Jane and Martin Gordon who are involved with the One Family Fund which helps families who have suffered from terrorism.

Volunteers meet Friday mornings at Temple Israel to work on the quilts. They iron, cut, pin, sandwich, hand-sew and design patterns. Among the volun-



Organizers Patsy Royer (left) and Merle Haltrecht-Matte with a stack of baby quilts made by Temple Israel volunteers for distribution to families in need in Israel.

teers are Anne Alper, Debbie Goldstein, Ann Matyas, Sharon Michaelson, Joyce Pagurek, Lorna Raskin, Sylvie Royer, Sam Schrier, Marilyn Stegenga, Sandra Thomas, Deb Viner and Marcia Zuker. Patsy and Merle are the main machine-sewers and quilters. Elaine Singer and Margo Rosen have donated some hand-knit blankets as well.

The quilts consist of 100 per cent plain or flannel cotton and all of the fabrics are donated. The group has received two sewing machines, an iron and an ironing board. They are looking for more donated craft-sized cotton batting and an old ironing machine called a mangle which irons large pieces of fabric. And anyone who has free time on Friday mornings is abso-

lutely welcome.

No two quilts will be the same, but all will have a numbered label designed by a volunteer that reads, "Gift of Temple Israel Ottawa in honour of the 60th anniversary of the State of Israel." The goal is to reach 60 baby quilts by the end of the anniversary year.

Rabbi Steve Garten of Temple Israel says he supports this project "100 per

cent." So does Anat Hoffman of the Israel Religious Action Center which will help to distribute some of the quilts. Who knows? This project could reach beyond the magic number of 60!

For more information about this initiative, to volunteer, or to contribute fabric, time or funds, contact Merle Haltrecht-Matte at 613-824-6833 or merle.haltrecht@opera.ncf.ca.


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Mazel Tov to Jennifer Korn on graduating from The University of Toronto with an Honours Bachelor of Arts degree. Jennifer is the daughter of proud parents Susan and Mark Korn and granddaughter of proud grandparents Ethel and Irving Taylor and the late Betty and Nathan Korn.



Mazel Tov to Shira Taylor on graduating from Queen's University on the Dean's List with an Honours Bachelor of Science degree with Distinction. Shira will be continuing at Queen's University taking her Master's of Epidemiology. Shira is the daughter of proud parents Risa and Brent Taylor and granddaughter of proud grandparents Ethel and Irving Taylor and Esther and Harry Froman.

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Charlie Sohmer: Ottawa folksinger daylights as an accountant

By Michael Regenstreif

How does a nice Jewish folksinger become an accountant or how does a nice Jewish accountant become a folksinger?

That was the first thing I asked Charlie Sohmer when he dropped by the *Bulletin* office for a recent visit. I've long known the Ottawa-based singer-songwriter for his work on the Canadian folk music scene and interviewed him several years ago on the radio show I hosted in Montreal.

"I tell people that I day-light as an accountant instead of moonlighting as a banjo player," was Sohmer's quick-witted response.

There was, of course, more to the story than that.

Sohmer got into music as a kid growing up in Montreal in the 1960s. A pivotal summer was spent attending Camp Hadar, a Jewish summer camp in the Laurentians north of the city, at the age of 13 in 1963.

"There were a couple of kids who played guitar and we'd sit around the campfire singing," he recalled. He was hooked.

Sohmer took up the guitar and was soon swept away by the music of Bob Dylan and other folk artists of the era.

"At Northmount High School, we had a really good folk music club," he recalled, and, by the age of 16, he was hanging around the Montreal coffee houses of the day. "I think the old



Charlie Sohmer, accountant by day, folksinger by night.
(OJB photo: Michael Regenstreif)

Penelope club was my second home back then."

Sohmer left home at the age of 19 and eventually spent several years living what he describes as a "back to the land hippie life" in the Pontiac area of Quebec. After getting married, Sohmer and his wife decided to move into Ottawa before the birth of their first daughter in 1976. They now have three adult daughters and two granddaughters.

In Ottawa, Sohmer got involved in running health food stores.

"I started at Urban Spice as a manager and eventually became a co-owner," he said.

After a parting of the ways from his Urban Spice partners, Sohmer opened his own store, Glebe Natural Grocers, in 1980.

"That morphed into

Bread and Fruit from 1985 until 1992."

All the while, Sohmer worked at his music and dabbled in the music business as an artists' manager and concert promoter.

Paying large sums of money to accountants while running health food stores convinced Sohmer the profession might make him a better living than running a health food store. He went back to school, got his credentials and opened a practice that is largely devoted to working with independent musicians.

Sohmer's years as an accountant have also coincided with a greater visibility as a performing and recording artist. But that has more to do with fewer demands on his time as his children got older.

"When they were

younger, I didn't want to cut into their family time," he said, adding that he never would have chosen the life of a touring musician over being at home with his family.

Over the years, Sohmer has released several well-received albums of his own songs. His next recording project, now in progress, will feature interpretations of his songs by various other artists. Among them, Willie P. Bennett, the legendary Canadian singer-songwriter who died suddenly earlier this year not long after recording his contribution to the album.

Over the past year, Sohmer has teamed with Nutshell Music to produce a series of concerts at Library and Archives Canada and the National Arts Centre Fourth Stage. Sohmer opens the concerts and then turns the stage over to well-known headliners like Jesse Winchester.

Their next concert features Sohmer opening for Ferron at Library and Archives Canada on October 3 at 8:00 pm.

Tickets are available at the Ottawa Folklore Centre, CD Warehouse and Compact Music. They can also be reserved by e-mail at info@nutshellmusic.com.

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Hillel Ottawa prepares for exciting new year

If you're a regular reader of the *Bulletin*, you may have noticed my byline on some articles over the past few issues. Just a few words of introduction: I've lived in Ottawa my whole life and attended four schools, including Hillel Academy and Talmud Torah on the Jewish Community Campus, where I now work part time as a *Bulletin* reporter while finishing my journalism degree at Carleton University.

I've been asked to write a column covering Jewish happenings in the student milieu. In the months to come, look for profiles on students from the community, updates on what Hillel Ottawa is up to, and maybe a few surprises, too.

My involvement in what was previously the Jewish Students Association (JSA) began during my first year at Carleton. Looking back, I could not have foreseen getting as much out of it, meeting so many people and connecting to the community-at-large.

This year, the JSA has changed its name to Hillel Ottawa to signal its affiliation with Hillel: the Foundation for Jewish Campus Life, the largest Jewish campus organization in the world.

Having just come back from a leadership day at the Hillel House on Laurier Avenue East, I have high hopes for this new year with the executive's ambitious plans and the exuberance Alana Kayfetz brings as Hillel Ottawa's new director.

The group of more than 20 students crafted a vision statement: "Hillel is an indispensable campus organization committed to promoting collaboration, co-operation and involvement in all aspects of campus and community life and being positive ambassadors and educators for the Jewish people and Israel."

Other goals include broadening student outreach and providing a welcoming environment for students to explore their Jewish identity, values and heritage.

Raphael Szajnfarber, Hillel's new city-wide president, is expected to steer the association in a philanthropic direction, instilling core Jewish values like *tzedakah* and *Tikkun Olam* in Hillel's programming.

Szajnfarber became involved in Hillel last year while serving as president of Ottawa's Students Helping Others Understand Tolerance (SHOUT), a Canadian organization stemming from the March of the Living and the March of



Campus Life

Liana Shlien

Remembrance and Hope in which he participated.

He brings experience from a wide variety of different clubs and plans to collaborate with other campus groups. "The skill sets I've developed have enabled me to come to a point where I feel ready to advocate for Jewish people and Jewish issues," he said.

Kayfetz's vision of a branded student organization is embodied in bright yellow T-shirts with the international Hillel emblem of a burning torch and the logo "... Everything and Anything!"

With the first few weeks of classes crucial for attracting new members, the executive will be highly visible in the hallways at information tables at Algonquin College, Carleton University and the University of Ottawa.

Such tables also promote Israel by advertising Taglit-Birthright Israel trips and the Israel Awareness Committee (IAC), which counters anti-Israel sentiments prevalent on campus.

On September 21, Hillel Ottawa will be welcoming students new and old to the annual opening barbecue, or *JewBQ*, at the Hillel House. To learn more and check out upcoming events, visit the new web site at hillelottawa.ca.

See page 40
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L' Shana Tova

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A Shabinsky Family Company

Cemetery provides tranquility

(Continued from page 45)

Hebrew lettering. With such an overtly Jewish name and theme, I asked if she had encountered any problems with anti-Semitism.

"No," she said. "It's a risk, but I feel safe."

The next day, after walking through the rapidly gentrifying Marais area, we went to the Mémorial de la Shoah, a museum that opened in 2005 to both document the horrors of France's Holocaust-era Vichy régime and to celebrate French Jewish life.

After entering the outdoor courtyard just beyond the front door, we were greeted by a large Star of David and a wall, inscribed with the names of 76,000 Jews deported with the co-operation of the Vichy government during the Holocaust.

The museum's permanent collection has an extensive multimedia Holocaust exhibit as well as other exhibits celebrating leading Jewish figures in French history, such as André Citroën who founded the French car company that bears his name and Theodore Herzl, the Austro-Hungarian immigrant credited with founding modern Zionism.

After leaving the museum, we heard the siren call of "Shawarma, falafel. Get it here!" as we ambled up narrow cobblestone streets onto Rue des Rosiers.

A certain degree of haimishness remains here, between the boutiques and the scaffolding signifying more urban infill condos, especially on Rue des Rosiers and Rue des Ecoffes.

I devoured a top-notch falafel, dripping with tahini sauce, spicy eggplant and cabbage at L'as du falafel and returned a few nights later to sample the competing falafel at Mi-va-mi, just feet away. It was equally good. For around five euros, there may not be a more satisfying Jewish culinary experience in Paris.

After several days of running around Paris, we sought tranquility and found it at the Père Lachaise cemetery, the final home of many of France's greatest figures, like Camille Pissarro and Edith Piaf.

In Père Lachaise's Jewish section, one can find simple graves of long forgotten French Jews as well as ornate mausoleums seemingly designed to rival the elaborate Christian mausoleums one

section over.

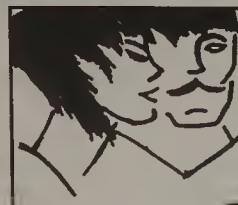
Among the Jews buried there are the painter Amedeo Modigliani, the singer Sarah Bernhardt and the philosopher Gertrude Stein. Finding them, though, can take some perseverance. We were lucky enough to find a friendly guide, who, free of charge, showed us the way.

On our way out of the cemetery, my wife insisted that we stop by to see its most famous denizen, the Doors' lead singer, Jim Morrison.

Exiting the cemetery, we walked to nearby Belleville, a fascinating multicultural neighbourhood. A Sephardic counterpart to the Marais, Belleville is home to a large Jewish Tunisian community, who are concentrated on a stretch of Boulevard de

Belleville. That is where I found the Aux Délices de Kifolie restaurant. From his adjoining table, a Muslim man from Tunisia explained that Tu-

(Continued on page 61)



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Judaic Outreach Programs

September - October 2008

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Alison Caplan, Judaic Administrative Assistant • 613-725-3519

Date	Program	Place	Time
Wednesdays Sept. 3, 10, 17, 24	Advanced Judaic Studies Adele Horwitz	Day Program 11 Nadolny Sachs	5:45-6:45
Wednesdays Sept. 3, 10, 17, 24	Joys of Judaism Adele Horwitz/Leo Lightstone	Day Program 11 Nadolny Sachs	6:45-7:45
Thursdays Sept. 11, 18, 25	Tamir Choir Cantor Benlolo	Day Program 11 Nadolny Sachs	6:15-7:15
Thursdays Sept. 11, 18, 25	Sing and Play Along Adele Horwitz	842 Broadview	4:00-5:00
Thursdays Sept. 11, 18, 25	Yiddishkeit Delights Adele Horwitz	840 Broadview	5:00-5:30
Sunday September 28	Rosh Hashanah Dinner RSVP Alison by Fri.Sept.19	Tamir Boardroom 11 Nadolny Sachs	5:30-8:00
Wednesdays Thursday	October 1, 8, 15, 22 October 9	Program Closed For Holidays Program Closed For Holidays	
Thursday October 2	Tashlich (bring bread) Cantor Benlolo Open to Everyone	Des Chenes Lookout Parkway West of Woodroffe	6:30-7:30
Thursdays October 11, 18, 25	Tamir Choir Cantor Benlolo	Day Program 11 Nadolny Sachs	6:15-7:15
Thursdays October 11, 18, 25	Sing and Play Along Adele Horwitz	842 Broadview	4:00-5:00
Thursdays October 11, 18, 25	Yiddishkeit Delights Adele Horwitz	840 Broadview	5:00-5:30
Sunday October 12	Sing & Play Along RSVP Alison Caplan	Rideau Regional Smiths Falls	11:00-3:00
Sunday October 19	Lunch in the Sukkah (BBQ) Cantor Benlolo Open to Everyone	938 Killen Avenue	12:00-2:30
Tuesday October 21	Simchat Torah Services Cantor Benlolo Open To Everyone	Beth Shalom 151 Chapel Street	6:30-8:30
Friday October 24	Community Shabbat RSVP Alison Caplan	Day Program 11 Nadolny Sachs	5:30-7:30
Monday October 27	Beth Y'vrit Hebrew Tal Palgi RSVP Erin Morley	31 Van Lang 613-851-4572	6:45-7:45
Wednesday October 29	Joys of Judaism Adele Horwitz	Day Program 11 Nadolny Sachs	6:45-7:45

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Valberg photo

Employment Opportunity YOUTH DIRECTOR AGUDATH ISRAEL CONGREGATION



Job Description

Congregation Agudath Israel is seeking a part-time professional who will work with clergy and other committed volunteers to inspire and encourage the congregation's youth, from grade one through high school, to become actively engaged in formal and informal group activities, furthering their Jewish identity and their affiliation with the Conservative movement. The individual should be a team player, innovative, flexible and passionate about Jewish life. S/he should be responsible, reliable, creative, enthusiastic, inspiring and a positive role model to the Shul's youth.

Primary responsibilities of the Youth Director include (but are not limited to):

- Advise, oversee, organize all programming for Youth Groups (Kadima/USY). Actively recruit leaders and members for all Youth Groups.
- Advise, consult and organize programming for the Shul's Teen Study program. Actively recruit students to this program.
- Organize and manage Shabbat and Yom Tov Junior Congregation (Teflatcinu) program for ages 6-13. Organizing and oversee babysitting service including recruiting a coordinator and babysitting staff from the Shul's youth.
- Organize High Holy Day Youth Services for all age groups, including recruiting leaders and consulting on programming of services.
- Organize B'nai Mitzvot and Shul School
- Enthusiastically attend all synagogue events where children are present: Shabbat services, Sukkot, Simchat Torah, Purim, Shavuot, and other events.
- Promote youth and family involvement in Shul life by organizing educational activities in conjunction with the Shul's clergy.
- Create a Family Shabbaton program in conjunction with the Family Programming Committee.
- Organize and implement the congregation's Purim Carnival.
- Work closely and cooperatively with the United Synagogue Youth Regional Director to promote regional activities and to heighten the profile of Agudath Israel within the region.
- Attend congregation Board meetings and staff meetings as required. Attend Regional meetings as required.
- Be a self starter, effective communicator, able to work within a specific budget and be able to see all projects to completion.

This is a part-time position that will, at times, require weekend and evening hours. The Youth Director reports directly to the Rabbi and Executive Director.

All resumes and inquiries should be directed to Hana Cammy
at 613-728 3501, ext. 225 or hana@agudathisrael.net.

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The Tamir Choir performs at the opening ceremonies of the 2008 Kinus Conference in Toronto.

Tamir co-hosts Kinus Conference in Toronto

By Lisa Giffin
Tamir Program
Development Manager

At Tamir, we work every day to help people with developmental disabilities in our community improve their lives, but it isn't every day that we get an opportunity to celebrate, inspire and reaffirm our commitment to the work we do with our Jewish peers from across North America.

The 2008 Kinus Conference in Toronto in June co-hosted by Tamir and Reena, our sister organization in Toronto, gave us that opportunity. More than 20 agencies, from as far away as Phoenix, Boca Raton and Winnipeg, came together to share knowledge and practices during the three-day conference.

The theme of the conference was inclusion and the opening ceremonies demonstrated just how far we have come in making inclusion a

reality. The Tamir Choir proudly shared the stage with Reena participants and professional artists such as Michael Moon and Shoshanna Telner, the acclaimed Toronto pianist. Who could have envisioned such a moment of talent and pride for our group?

Celebrating the accomplishments of individuals is one thing; coming together as organizations to share our successes and our challenges is another. At the Kinus Conference, we heard from parents in other communities who are still struggling with the lack of basic services for their children. We shared the exuberance of parents who, faced with this type of obstacle, have recently taken it upon themselves to organize and develop new organizations to meet their needs, just as Tamir families did more than 20 years ago.

We shared stories with agencies that operate one home and serve three individuals and with other agencies who serve more than a thousand members across hundreds of locations. We gained valuable insights into how these established agencies are adapting to changing needs through innovative programs such as elder care and foster homes. We discussed how important it is to champion inclusion and overcome barriers thus ensuring that people with developmental disabilities can live as full citizens in the mainstream of our Jewish communities and communities-at-large.

Speakers at the conference included parents and pioneering advocates such as Tamir's own Lily Penso, who served to inspire and motivate those in the group struggling to start up community services.

Organizing and participating in Kinus 2008 was a time of affirmation and inspiration for Tamir. As parent and Tamir board member Michael Caplan put it, "Participating in Kinus confirmed that the path Tamir has followed over the past 20 years, focusing on quality of service and maintaining the integrity of our Judaic principles, was the right one, both for our community and for the individuals we support. I'm excited because it also gave us some great ideas to pursue in the future as we continue to improve our services and build on our strengths."

SHANA TOVA



Wishing You a Happy, Sweet New Year

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Helping the community one stitch at a time

By Benita Siemietycki

Visit the Soloway Jewish Community Centre (JCC) any Wednesday afternoon, and the sound of voices and laughter will waft through the upstairs corridor. Nestled into the community board room, the Mitzvah Knitters gather weekly around the large table to knit their lovingly-made creations. The women range in age from their late-70s to late-90s and many of them arrive in wheelchairs or with walkers. But year-round, in rain, sleet and snow, the Knitters join forces to provide 24 community agencies with much-needed blankets, hats, scarves, and mittens.

Founded by the late Naomi Pearlman, there are currently about 15 women who attend regularly, with others who join in whenever they can. Many women knit at home and bring in bags at a time. Not all are Jewish, but they all share the love of knitting, the desire to socialize with peers and the sense of accomplishment by contributing to the community.

Behind this well-oiled knitting machine is Liz Kronick, the "legs" of the group. She estimates she's been running the Mitzvah Knitters for about 10 years, and during that



Liz Kronick with blankets made by the Mitzvah Knitters.

(OJB photo: Benita Siemietycki)

time has heard countless stories of love and war.

"We sit, we talk, we drink tea and eat cookies," says Liz. "We share war stories, surgical stories and wedding stories. We're really big on socializing. And we knit."

Kronick collects wool from donors (she's discovered some "real

serious wool hoarders"), visits Michael's craft store with a handful of coupons regularly, and delivers the finished products to all the recipient agencies. She makes sure all the knitters have the colours they want ready to go.

"They love to come out and show their knitting expertise. It's a

good activity to get them dressed and out of the house," says Kronick. "It's all about women who get together to knit."

Sometimes unexpected connections are discovered. Two participants meeting for the first time recently found out they both grew up in small northern Ontario towns and knew some of the same people.

Some of the organizations which have received knitted items in the past are a Jewish shelter, the Mission, the Youville Centre, Hillel Lodge, Villa Marconi, Bruce House, CHEO, and aboriginal women. This year on Mitzvah Day, put on annually by the Jewish Federation of Ottawa, 250 hats will be placed in bags along with other useful items for the homeless. Children's gift bags destined for a women's shelter will contain blankets created by the knitting group.

Besides her involvement with the Mitzvah Knitters, Kronick is a regular blood donor, calls on behalf of the annual Hillel Lodge Tea, and has been a server for Christmas day dinners sponsored by the Newport Restaurant. But her knitting group is her favourite activity. She loves hearing all the participants' histories and watching friendships form.

Maxine Miska, the Soloway JCC's director of programming and interim president and chief operating officer, feels Kronick's contribution is integral to the group's success.

"Liz Kronick is the consummate organizer. She creates a complex 'archive' of wool, so that the knitters know where to find their supplies. She prepares bundles of finished goods for all the charities that benefit from our projects. But most of all, she appreciates the knitters and their wonderful work, and her praise is as warm as the woolen hats and blankets."

When not at the Soloway JCC, Kronick is the office manager of her husband Skip's medical office. They have two daughters, Abby, 23, manages a medical practice office in Ottawa, and Alexandra, 21, is currently in Australia studying neurosciences and psychology.

The Mitzvah Knitters are always in need of wool. Donations can be dropped off at the Soloway JCC front desk.

Benita Siemietycki of the Jewish Ottawa InfoCentre profiles community volunteers in the Bulletin. Many organizations are in desperate need of volunteers. Call 613-798-4644 for information.



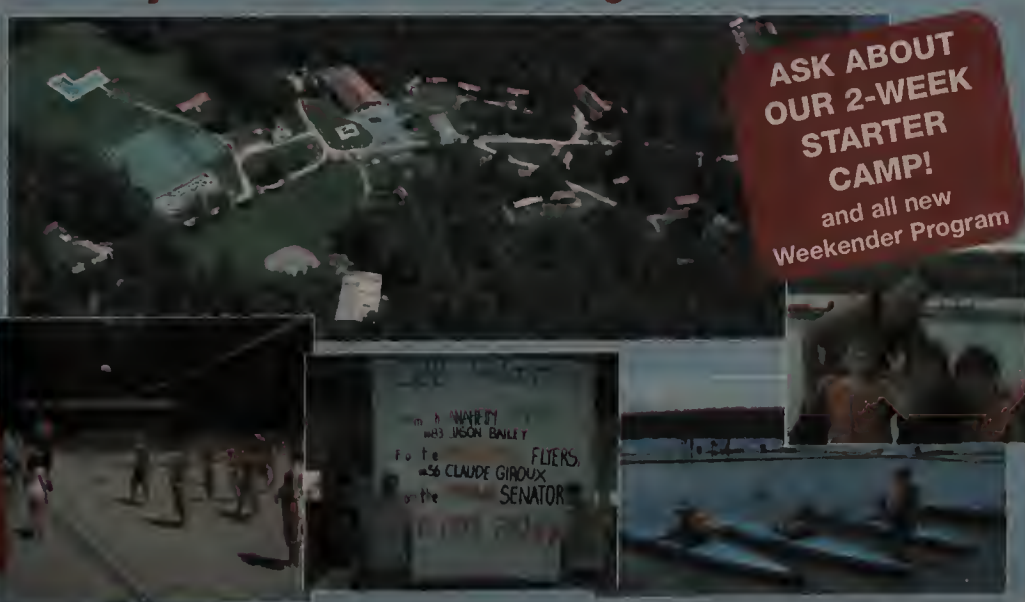
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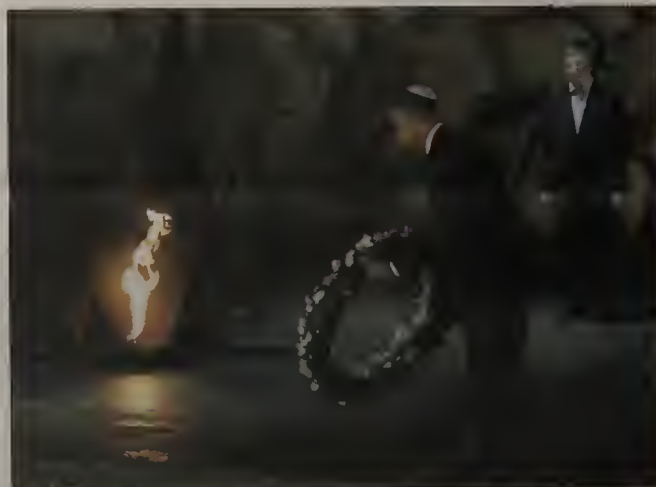
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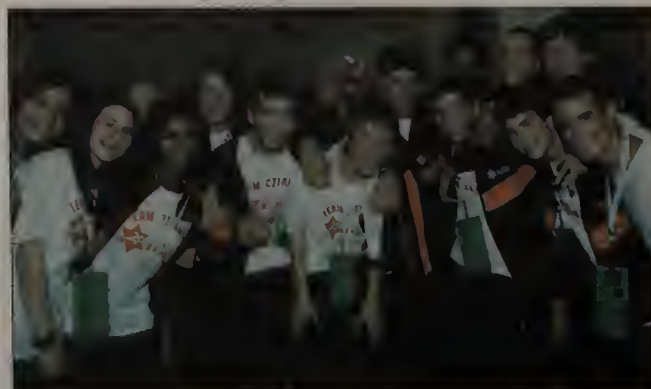
Photos from 5768



Eight first-generation Israeli babies celebrate Israel @ 60 on Yom Ha'Atzmaut.
(Photo: JTA/Nefesh B'Nefesh)



U.S. Senator Barack Obama visits Yad Vashem, July 23, 2008.
(Photo: Brian Hendler)



Members of Ottawa's SJCC volleyball and basketball teams at the JCC Maccabi Games in Detroit in August. See Irv Osterer's O-Zone report from the games on page 75.
(Photo: Harry Prizant)

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Friday afternoon is B-I-N-G-O time at Hillel Lodge

By Benita Siemiatycki

Some 10 years ago when Carolyn Katz's mother moved into the new Hillel Lodge facility, little did Carolyn and her husband Sidney know how that would change their lives.

Carolyn became a familiar fixture as she visited her mother daily. Once there, she assisted other residents. Her mother would even ask, "Did you come to see everyone else, or did you come to see me?" But as Carolyn says, she realized she couldn't go there and "just be a bump on a log."

Before they knew it, Carolyn and Sidney were helping with the Friday afternoon bingos. When the regular caller resigned from his volunteer post, Sidney, a former high school teacher, saw the opportunity to be back in front of a "classroom."

He enthusiastically took on the role of bingo caller, and, together, Carolyn and Sidney have been running the Friday afternoon bingos ever since.

They are so popular that the residents get excited every time they see the Carolyn and Sidney walk in the door, anticipating a surprise game of bingo. Most of the time,



Carolyn and Sidney Katz spend Friday afternoons running the popular bingo games at Hillel Lodge. (OJB photo: Benita Siemiatycki)

unfortunately for the bingo regulars, they are usually there to visit Carolyn's mother.

Sidney takes his role of bingo caller seriously. He attaches meanings to numbers to make the game more challenging. For instance, 57 becomes Heinz, 39 becomes Jack Benny (the legendary comedian claimed to be 39 years old for 40

years) and 36 is double-Chai. He comes up with these connections spontaneously, and the residents love it.

"He makes it exciting, and their brains are stimulated," explains Carolyn.

For her part, Carolyn has been the treasurer of the Hillel Lodge Auxiliary for six years. Sid helps

out with calling for pledges for the Lodge's Annual Tea. All funds raised by the Auxiliary's fundraising activities are used to enhance the care the Lodge offers.

Carolyn and Sid see the results of their work and the benefits brought to the residents.

"Everything is turned back to the residents' happiness," says Sid, "whether it's flowers for Shabbas or items for Yom Tovim."

Even the hiring of additional staff for the feeding program was a result of the Auxiliary's efforts.

Carolyn and Sid can't say enough about Hillel Lodge and its staff.

"It's like a family," says Carolyn. "It's awesome to see the loving ways the staff treat the residents. They treat them like they're their own grandparents."

"I'm happy to be there," adds Sid. "In my mind, I'm doing something meaningful and joyful for the couple of hours we're there."

Hillel Lodge executive director Stephen Schneiderman is equally thrilled with their contributions. "They like to be where the action is and help the residents enjoy the activities."

Carolyn and Sid also volunteer

for the Hope Volleyball Tournament, the Ileitis and Colitis Foundation, the Civic Hospital and the Kidney Foundation.

The Jewish Community Centre (JCC) played a huge role in the lives of Carolyn and Sidney. The original JCC, located on Chapel Street, is where they met and the couple has now been married for 43 years. Daughter Elayna is married and works in Ottawa in human resources, and son Adam is a podiatrist living in Regina.

Sidney urges everyone to consider volunteering.

"You have to find something you have an inclination for. Usually it comes from a family concern. That will set you in a direction. I don't think it's a 'must,' but it tends to be what spurs people on."

Carolyn adds, "For me, it's just a wonderful feeling to be able to give back. It's wonderful to be able to help, especially the seniors and the sick."

Benita Siemiatycki of the Jewish Ottawa InfoCentre profiles community volunteers in the Bulletin. Many organizations are in desperate need of volunteers. Call the InfoCentre at 613-798-4644 for information.

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It's a boy!

ROSS/VICTOR: Mike, Andrea and big sister Daliah are thrilled to announce the arrival of Dylan Sammy on Tuesday, June 10, 2008, weighing 7 lb. 3 oz. Proud grandparents are Gail and Stephen Victor of Ottawa, Sheila and Jack Malric of Montreal, and Francine and Hal Ross of Toronto. Dylan is lovingly welcomed by Aunt Jodie and cousin Jordana. Many thanks to Dr. Shiletto and staff of the North York General Hospital.

A baby brother for Ruth!

HARREL/LIBRACH – Dan and Sari Harrel are thrilled to announce the arrival of their second child Ron Irwin (Nachman Hillel) on 24 July 2008 in Ottawa. Happy and excited big sister is Ruthie. Delighted grandparents are Zayde Dr. Morris Librach, and Opa and Oma Gad and Helly Harrel. Ron is joyfully welcomed into the family by his aunts, uncles and many cousins! Deeply missed are Ron's maternal grandmother Myrna Librach and other dear late relatives. Our very special thanks to Dr. Demetra Vassiliou and all the wonderful medical staff at the Ottawa Hospital, Civic Campus. Ron's names are in memory of loved ones.



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Star of David Hebrew School Kindergarten graduates

By Hennie Honigman
Star of David
Hebrew School

Star of David Hebrew School Kindergarten graduates (left to right) Rachel Lowenberg, Rachel Popove, Chayah Ambaya and Samuel Bierbrier at the school's closing exercises on June 18.

The event included the presentation of a miniature Torah to Grade 3 students symbolizing their commencement of Torah study and the presentation of the Lou Honigman Memorial Mensch Award to Malcolm Dinovitzer.

The featured speaker was Rabbi Reuven P. Bulka who discussed the importance of Jewish education with the students and parents.

Also present was Robyn Ketner of the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation who was presented with a cheque for \$260 representing



Star of David Hebrew School Kindergarten graduation, June 18.

the money donated by Star of David students on *Tzedakah Day* Wednesdays over the course of the year. Since 1998, students have been bringing their change to school on Wednesdays and each year the students have decided on a worthy cause to

benefit from their donations.

Star of David classes for Grades 1 to 7 are held on Mondays and Wednesdays from 4:15 to 6:15 pm; Kindergarten classes on Wednesdays only.

The curriculum covers Hebrew reading and writing,

Siddur, history, laws and customs, Israel and the Holocaust.

Contact the school principal, Hennie Honigman, at 613-731-3828 for information or registration or visit starofdavidhebrewschool.com.

The High Holidays are a time to reach out

By Ferris Hamilton
for OTC Chabad

The High Holidays are just ahead and Jewish people all over the world are preparing to worship and celebrate Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur.

"This is the best time to reach out to unaffiliated and unengaged families" explains Rabbi Menachem M. Blum, executive director of Ottawa Torah Center Chabad (OTC).

"The High Holiday season is typically a time when everyone's Jewish soul tugs at them to connect."

Building on last year's success, OTC High Holiday services will be held in Barhaven at 3023 Cedarview Road and will be open to all regardless of affiliation and background.

"Our services are user-friendly, warm, and traditional with contemporary messages," says Rabbi Blum. "Our non-judgmental approach and unconditional love and respect for every Jew provide a great point of entry for unengaged families and present an opportunity to start our New Year with the most inspiring and delightful experience."

The number of people participating OTC's High Holi-

day Services have grown from year to year with more than 250 participating last year. A simultaneous youth program and junior congregation is provided which allows the adults to enjoy the service while the children participate in meaningful and educational High Holiday activities at their own level.

Based in Barhaven, OTC has been at the forefront of outreach and has helped hundreds of Jews move one step closer on their journey to connecting with their Jewish identities. With ice cream sundaes, iPod giveaways, spa days and Kabbalah classes, OTC is employing decidedly unorthodox methods to address the fading involvement of many Jews in local Jewish life.

OTC's High Holiday ser-

vices are conducted in Hebrew and English and take on a user-friendly feel as Rabbi Blum guides the participants through the liturgy.

"During the High Holidays the doors of heaven are open to all, so are ours," says Rabbi Blum. "People may see themselves as unaffiliated, Reform, Conservative, or Orthodox. At OTC, we see them as Jewish. No labels, no differences."

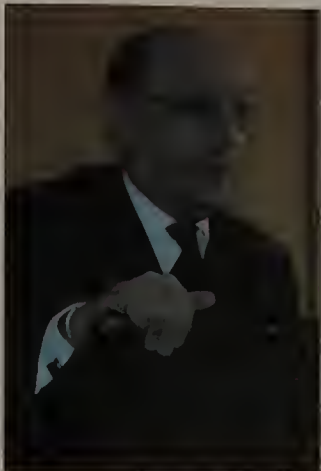
A special feature this year at OTC will be the presence of Cantor Rabbi Uri Weitz. Originally from Philadelphia, Rabbi Weitz has led services at various synagogues in the U.S. and Canada. His sweet voice and full repertoire of High Holiday melodies has inspired many communities, including Jewish students studying at University of Philadelphia.

"The combination of my insights on the liturgy and the uplifting voice of Rabbi Weitz promises to provide a true transformative experience this High Holiday season," comments Rabbi Blum.

Call OTC at 613-823-0866 or visit ottawatorahcenter.com for information and reservations.

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Gerry Cammy



Samuel Konig

Agudath Israel teen classes open to the entire community

By Cynthia Nyman Engel
for Agudath Israel

If we could offer a stimulating Jewish studies program for 13- to 19-year-olds that required no homework, no assignments, no pressure and no exams, would Jewish teens come? That was the question the Agudath Israel Youth Committee asked itself last year. Happily, they discovered, the answer is an encouraging, 'YES!'

Last fall, concerned with the apathy of many post Bar and Bat Mitzvah teens toward continuing their Jewish studies, the committee – with the wholehearted support of Rabbi Charles Popky – launched a pilot Teen Study Program at Agudath Israel, open to Jewish teens community-wide. Then they held their collective breath.

"It worked out better than we dared to expect," says Wendy Klein, project co-ordinator. "We wanted to provide an opportunity for kids to get together in a social setting to learn without the burden of homework or assignments. We decided that if we had five kids, we'd start. We ended up with 10 to 12 kids a week, depending on their schedules."

The program consisted of two eight-week sessions of two 45-minute classes held on Wednesday evenings, taught by Professor Gerry Cammy and *Morah* Liz Petigorsky.

"The topics were so stimulating that the kids just kept talking and talking, so the classes often ran overtime," smiles Klein.

Among the topics covered were the pros and cons of the death penalty and the Jewish view of the death penalty; First Nations' issues, including the David Ahenakew affair and native schools; anti-Semitism; the homeless; immigration; the use of animals in medicine; euthanasia and the Robert Latimer case; the Holocaust, and more.

"I was amazed at the level of discussion and understanding from these kids," says Cammy, who teaches social studies at Heritage College in Gatineau, Quebec and is host of CFRA radio's *Professor Gerry Cammy Show* on Sunday nights. "They were passionate about the topics we covered. It was remarkable. I can't wait until school starts."

Cammy will be teaching his popular courses again this year. *Morah* Liz is retired and will be replaced by McGill University graduate Samuel Konig, 24, who is pursuing an MA in European, Russian and Eurasian studies at Carleton University. Last year, Konig was the campus advocacy co-ordinator of National Jewish Campus Life (NJCL) for Carleton University and the University of Ottawa.

"After Akiva High School closed down three years ago, Agudath Israel wanted to start its own post-Bar and Bat Mitzvah school," explains Cammy. "In fact, it has been the rabbi's dream to have a school at Agudath Israel. For many years, Akiva's courses were packed. At its peak it had 170 students. The kids loved it and the parents loved it, too."

Rabbi Popky is delighted that the teen program is underway.

"It's geared specifically to high school students," he says. "Very simply, Jewish education is a mitzvah. It's at the point that children move beyond the age of Bar and Bat mitzvah that they really begin to understand and turn over the values of our tradition. This is the time they develop their capacity for abstract thinking and this is when they can really begin to learn."

The Agudath Israel Teen Program is open to all Ottawa Jewish teens, regardless of synagogue affiliation. For further information, call Wendy Klein at 613-820-4822.

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"One who saves a life, saves the entire world"

Torah High offers classes Jewish teens want to take

By Ilana Belfer
for Torah High

On class nights in the NCSY Lounge in Craig Henry Plaza, you'll find teenagers chilling out, talking or noshing on pizza. While the lounge's big-screen TV and couches may not be typical of a classroom setting, these weekly gatherings are of students taking courses offered by NCSY's Torah High; courses for which they receive Ministry-

approved high school credit. It's the relaxed environment, dedicated teachers and innovative approach to learning that drive Torah High's success and makes it a Jewish educational program that teens actually want to attend.

"I look forward to coming to Torah High for the chance to bond with some of my friends and to learn more about my Jewish heritage," says Matthew Sherman, a

Grade 12 student at Sir Robert Borden High School.

Connecting with other Jewish teens and expanding one's knowledge of his/her Jewish heritage are not the only incentives for joining Torah High. All who sign up are entered into a draw for a chance to win an iPhone.

In addition to a weekly two-hour session, students also must complete 30 *Torah High hours* outside of class for experiential learning. Opportunities to fulfil this requirement include attending guest speaker presentations, Shabbat dinners and weekend conventions.

This past year, New York City was host to hundreds of Jewish teens, including 45 from Ottawa, who toured and shopped for fun, and attended educational workshops towards their 30 hours. Another group of 40 students hit the slopes at Calabogie Peaks and opted to spend a Shabbat in winter wonderland, while simultaneously gaining hours.

Acquiring the necessary



Torah High students celebrate Chanukah last year.

hours demands some commitment, but it also stimulates the involvement of Jewish youth within Ottawa's Jewish community. Torah High's ability to merge theoretical learning with social activities and real-life application is what makes its brand of Jewish education attractive and fun to many high school students.

For some, there is another appeal. While transitioning from a Jewish elementary school to a public high school, Judaism loses the accessibility that it once had. As resources grow scarcer, remaining connected to the Jewish community becomes a challenge.

Josh Levitan, a Grade 12 student at Ashbury College, can relate.

"Going to a different high school than most of my friends from Jewish day school, I do not get to see them as much as I would like. Torah High has offered me a chance to spend a lot more time with many of them. At the same time, it feels good to once again be discussing topics relating to Judaism," he says.

Torah High, however, is not only for those with previous experience in Jewish studies. The program welcomes Jewish public high school students from across the city, regardless of background or affiliation.

"These are kids in public schools who still want some connection with Jewish education, if it is done in a warm, and non-threatening way,"

says Rabbi Yehuda Simes, director of education for Torah High Ottawa.

With back-to-school season upon us, Torah High Ottawa's third year of operation appears to be promising. After all, it's hard to turn down free food, awesome trips, great prizes and, oh yeah, hard-earned high school credit.

Torah High is funded by the Jewish Federation of Ottawa and private donations. For more information, visit torahhigh.ca or contact Bram Bregman at 613-262-6279 or bram@ncsy.ca.

Ilana Belfer was a Torah High student for the past two years. She graduated from Sir Robert Borden High School and is now starting at McGill University.



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In Paris, Tunisian Jews and Muslims share a mostly congenial relationship

(Continued from page 53)

nisian Jews and Tunisian Muslims had a mostly congenial relationship and that many still keep vacation homes in Tunisia.

OK, but what about the food?

On the advice of my new friend at the next table, I ordered the fish couscous. Awaiting our food, we listened to the large contingent of Jewish Tunisians at the main table, speaking all at once in Arabic and French. Each time someone new came up to the outdoor patio, they were welcomed into the loud and boisterous group, as if they all knew each other.

The appetizers soon came. The mini-pizzas, mini-tuna sandwiches, known as 'Tunisian sandwiches,' olives and a tomato dish called 'Mechoui,' could have easily made up an entire meal. Still, when my fish couscous arrived, along with potatoes and other veggies in a separate bowl of broth, I was anxious to try it.

"Use more of the juice," the man next to me admonished. I did, and it was easily the best meal of the week.

We left Belleville with an appreciation not just for the food, but for the colourful and friendly Tunisian way of life.

Going from one trans-



The top-notch falafel may be Paris' best Jewish food.

planted culture to another, I found the Yiddish Cultural Centre on Passage Amelot, in a barely marked alleyway across from a Renault car dealership. It was there that I met a woman named Ruby Monet, a former school teacher.

Another transplanted New Yorker, from the Bronx, Monet had moved to Paris in the 1960s.

Although she grew up speaking Yiddish with her grandparents, she hadn't spoken it in years until first coming to the centre in 1989.

She became a Yiddish teacher.

"When I taught English, students had to learn it. But with Yiddish, what do you need it for but pure pleasure," she said. The centre contains the largest Yiddish library in Europe, which Monet calls "one of the great unknown treasures in Europe." The Yiddish Cultural Centre also hosts events.

As my wife and I left Paris, our bellies were full of falafel, couscous and faux shrimp. And our minds were at ease, knowing that the

largest Jewish community in Europe is flourishing. I'm already plotting a return visit. I hear there's an excellent kosher Indian restaurant in the 17th arrondissement.

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Ottawa's Musica Ebraica sings at North America Jewish Choral Festival

By Minda Wershof
 Musica Ebraica

What can be more gratifying for a small Ottawa chamber choir than to celebrate its international debut at a Jewish singers' conference and come away with accolades?

For Musica Ebraica, Ottawa's chamber choir specializing in Jewish music, making our international debut at the 20th annual North American Jewish Choral Festival in the Catskill Mountains was the highlight of our musical experience.

The gathering of over 500 of the best known choral directors and singers of Jewish music is a showcase for choirs and composers of this genre of music. The four-day festival is filled with singing, workshops, more singing, performances and singing late into the night at impromptu sing-a-longs. Being a part of this was exciting, but nothing compared to the moments that we spent on stage entertaining this knowledgeable and interested group of musicians. Our repertoire, chosen by conductor and musical director, David Malecki, was mostly Canadian and included pieces by Srul Irving Glick, Leonard Enns and Eyal Bitton, and the Israeli song, "Uf Gozal," with piano accompaniment by Larry Tarof.

The choir sang beautifully



Musica Ebraica makes its international debut.

and with enthusiasm and the cheers, applause and compliments galore that followed the appearance, made us feel that we achieved something exceedingly special; truly a *shehecheyanu* moment.

Musica Ebraica put

Ottawa on the choral map. For the singers and their musical director, it was an event like no other. Musica Ebraica, invigorated and even more enthusiastic, looks forward to bringing more of this beautiful music to Ottawa

audiences for many years to come.

For more information about Musica Ebraica, or to audition, contact David Malecki at david.malecki@sympatico.ca or Minda Wershof at wershof@magma.ca or 613-224-7073.

High Holy Days at Adath Shalom

By Ruth Kahane Goldberg
 for Adath Shalom Congregation

As reported in the June 16 *Bulletin*, rabbinical student Deborah Zuker, the first Ottawa woman to undertake rabbinical studies, will be the spiritual leader for Adath Shalom Congregation during the High Holy Days.

The Conservative egalitarian congregation will hold services at the Soloway Jewish Community Centre for Rosh Hashanah from September 29 to October 1 and for Yom Kippur on October 8 and 9.

About 250 people are expected to attend the services. Men and women from the congregation will chant the traditional High Holy Days liturgy and Zuker will provide commen-

tary on the prayers, present sermons and hold study sessions each afternoon. She will also lead two special sessions for youth.

"Our services have a friendly and inspiring atmosphere that comes from our members' participation combined with Deborah Zuker's involvement," said Paul Adler, Adath Shalom co-president.

The High Holy Days are a time when family members, friends, people who are unaffiliated with a congregation, and university students from other cities, can arrange to join the services.

Visit adath-shalom.ca for more information about Adath Shalom. Arrangements to attend Adath Shalom High Holy Days services can be made by calling 613-240-4564.

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Sarah Swedler to be honoured at Hillel Lodge Auxiliary Tea

By Marion Silver
Auxiliary of Hillel Lodge
Sarah Swedler will be honoured at the Auxiliary of Hillel Lodge's annual tea on October 26.

The tea is the Auxiliary's only fundraiser and has become a major event for both the community-at-large and the Lodge residents.

Sarah is a longtime and highly energetic volunteer known for spreading her warmth and her joy into the lives of the residents at many Auxiliary functions from Chanukah and Purim parties to Mother's and Father's Day breakfasts. With her husband, Arnie, she donated a Torah for the Lodge chapel.

Because of the dedication of people like Sarah, the Auxiliary is able to enhance the quality of life for the residents of Hillel Lodge by providing such extras as the therapeutic programs, bed lifts, bath lifts for the showers, Mother's Day and Father's Day gifts and programs, Shabbat flowers and all the holiday programs.

A tribute book to celebrate the occasion is being prepared for Sarah. Contact Rickie Saslove at 613-728-2558 or Roz Fremeth at 613-727-0785 for advertising information. All proceeds will go to the Auxiliary.

The tea takes place on Sunday, October 26, at 2:00 pm.

For information, contact Marion Silver at 613-224-3354.

BBYO: Youth led, youth inspired

By Sharon Diamond
for BBYO
I had an interesting youth. Most of it was spent in Toronto until I moved to Ottawa when I was 17. In Toronto, I wasn't active in any Jewish youth groups. I didn't feel I needed to be. I went to a public high school where about 90 per cent of the students were Jewish. All my friends were Jewish. Why did I need to fill my already-busy calendar with yet another commitment?

That question was only answered once I moved here. Although I still attended a public high school where most of my fellow students were Jewish, I was starting from scratch. Most of the friends I made were members of B'nai Brith Youth Organization (BBYO) and so I joined, more as an excuse to socialize than anything else. I knew very little about BBYO when I handed in my membership form (except that now my mother was thrilled that all those years of "encouragement" had finally paid off).

What did I learn in my time with BBYO? Everything.

BBYO's motto of "youth run, youth led" teaches teens how to develop leadership and management skills through various conventions and programs. The members plan and execute the events, with staff and volunteers working closely to guide and assist them where needed.

Apart from the invaluable practical skills I developed, I formed friendships with people in different cities that are still with me today. Some of my closest relationships were forged around camp fires at conventions.

It is impossible to truly understand the power of BBYO until you attend a program or a convention. Ask any member of the organization and they will tell you all the wonderful things it has done for them.

For more information about BBYO or to find out about upcoming events, contact Maxine Miska at the Soloway Jewish Community Centre, 613-798-9818 ext. 263 or mmiska@jccottawa.com.




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For more information contact Maxine Miska, Director of Programming at 613-798-9818 ext. 263 or mmiska@jccottawa.com

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MAIMONIDES

By Alex Pomson and Randal F. Schnoor,
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Rebecca Margolis

Rebecca Margolis, an assistant professor at the University of Ottawa, teaches in the Vered Jewish Canadian Studies Program at uOttawa.

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Value trade-offs and kashruth

I've been thinking a lot about kashruth lately, and not only because Rosh Hashanah makes me wax nostalgic for my Babbie's trans-fat-coated soup *mandlen*. Kashruth has been on my mind because it's one of Judaism's clearest and most obvious day-to-day examples of an absolute value commitment. It's also one that I find troubling along ethical lines, at least in its current formulation. That is, to keep kosher one must decide to bracket all other ethical and value concerns: ecological, health and social, to name a few. With the exception of *shechitah* (kosher slaughter) – the humanness of which is, itself, debated within the animal-rights community – kashruth is arguably not intended to be an ethical system beyond its own internal logic.

This is not to say that one cannot be kosher and ethical – including seeking out organic, healthy and pro-labour or pro-social products. But it's clearly a lot harder to do so. If you find yourself shopping for kosher cranberry juice, you might end up having to buy the sugar-added juice (which happens to have a *hekksher*) over the bottle containing 100% juice, as I had to when an observant relative once came to visit. If you're selecting which kind of brisket to buy for *Yom Tov*, it is a much more formidable task to find kosher, grass-fed beef, than kosher beef filled with bovine-disease-causing grain and antibiotics. To keep kosher means one is necessarily prohibited from choosing the certified-organic, but non-certified-kosher, over its kosher alternative.

My day job has me researching and writing a book about Jewish values, in that case, those surrounding the work involved in Israel advocacy. More on that topic in a later column. But for now, what concerns me is the idea that a literalist interpretation of *Halacha* (including the laws surrounding kashruth) forces these decisions without any room for value trade-offs. It's not a matter of setting priorities and negotiating value compromises; with kashruth, no such process is permitted for ethical negotiation.

So, one could say, kashruth ends up being a pretty value-thin commitment; the commitment being the goal of kashruth-adherence itself.

So what, beyond the world Jewish community deciding to abolish kashruth (as it did animal sacrifice following the destruction of the Second Temple), is to be done?

Some in the Jewish community have decided to address these problems by adhering to a loose practice known as *eco-kashruth*. Inspired by Jewish Renewal founder Rabbi Zalman Schachter-Shalomi in the 1970s, *eco-kashruth* refers to ensuring that what one eats conforms not only to *halachically* kosher principles, but to ethical ones as well. This might mean seek-



Values, Ethics, Community

Mira Sucharov

ing out organic food, adopting vegetarianism or eliminating Styrofoam. With the increasing popularity of the *new food movement* being spread by the ideas of the 100-Mile Diet, community-supported agriculture projects and the recent writings of food author Michael Pollan, Internet-savvy Jews are adding a Jewish flavour through groups such as Hazon and its accompanying blog, *The Jew and the Carrot*, at jarrot.org.

More specifically, perhaps, and encouraged by the worker-abuse scandals surrounding Agriprocessors Inc. – the largest kosher meatpacking plant in the United States – the Conservative movement has gone further in recognizing that kashruth should force ethical choices beyond simply the commitment to *Halacha*. To that end, the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism has initiated the concept of a *Hekhsheer Tzedek*, a symbol that would accompany the traditional *Hekhsheer* and would indicate that the product has resulted from fair labour practices, has a limited environmental footprint, and involves corporate transparency.

Why should this be a community concern, and why is it not simply a personal one? I would argue that kashruth has clear implications at the public level. It is much more likely that the organizers of a Jewish-community-wide event will serve a trans-fat-laden cake (it being *parve*) over an all-butter alternative. The amount of Styrofoam present at Jewish events is similarly alarming. The idea of *Hekhsheer Tzedek* doesn't necessarily address the types of dishes their certified food is to be eaten on, but an overall mindfulness to aspects and practices beyond the *halachic* stipulations of not mixing meat and milk, for instance, cannot but bring us closer to attaining a global spirituality that takes note of a broad range of ethical concerns.

It also helps keep Judaism, and Jewish communal involvement, relevant for those whose ethical compass points in directions beyond a literal reading of Jewish textual sources and towards those with whom – whether animal, vegetable or mineral – we share this earth. That may not be good for the soup *mandlen* company, but it cannot be but good for Jewish stomachs and souls.

VOLUNTEER CORNER

Volunteer Corner is courtesy of the Jewish Federation of Ottawa. All beneficiary agencies are invited to list their volunteer opportunities.

Volunteer Opportunities

JEWISH FAMILY SERVICES

Can YOU make the difference?

If so, contact Lisa Bogdonov, Volunteer Coordinator of the Thelma Steinman Seniors Support Services unit: 613-722-2225, ext. 327 or LBogdonov@jfsottawa.com.

- An elderly woman in the Carling & Woodroffe area needs help with grocery shopping on a weekly or bi-weekly basis.
- A disabled woman downtown needs help with paperwork approximately 2-3 times per month for 1-2 hours.
- An elderly gentleman in Riverside South needs transportation to and from the General Hospital to visit his wife.
- A woman downtown needs help taking a few boxes to the storage locker in her building and with organizing it a little.
- A woman who needs to participate in a therapeutic swimming program at Jack Purcell needs a ride to and from her home in Alta Vista.
- An elderly woman in the Byward Market area needs a friendly visitor to share coffee visits, trips to museums, art galleries, etc.
- An elderly lady who likes crafts & sewing would love to meet someone with similar interests to help her get out of the house once in a while.
- A gentleman who enjoys long walks and Torah study could use an occasional companion. Campus area.
- An entertaining lady who uses a scooter is looking for someone to accompany her to Carlingwood shopping centre (walking distance).
- **Transportation:** Drivers are needed to transport seniors to and from medical appointments, social opportunities, grocery shopping, and the like.
- **Kosher Meals on Wheels:** Drivers who can deliver on short notice are always at a premium. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.
- **Friendly Visiting:** Requests come in constantly from family members needing a visitor for a shut-in. Weekly, bi-weekly or ad-hoc opportunities. Chat over coffee, take in a show, go bowling...
- **Teleshalom:** We are currently seeking volunteers to place weekday morning reassurance calls to isolated seniors. Each call takes approximately 2-3 minutes and can be done from your home, office or cell phone.
- **Presenters:** JFS hosts several monthly seniors' luncheon programs. We are looking for specialists, artists, musicians, and others who can present for about 45 minutes in exchange for a hot lunch in great company.
- **Share Your Expertise:** We receive requests for things like filling out forms, putting up a Sukkah, changing dishes for Passover, and the like. If you have an expertise to share with someone in need, please let us know.
- **Miriam's Well:** This distribution program needs helpers to pack and hand out fresh fruits and vegetables on the first Monday of every month.

Please note: Mileage incurred by volunteers is always reimbursed by JFS.

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- **Special mitzvah anyone?** Bring a resident to Shabbos services (Saturdays at 9:15 am) and enjoy the fantastic Oneg with friends. Great cholent!
- **Newly retired?** Put Hillel Lodge volunteering in your plan. Residents welcome visitors, program assistance, all kinds of options. Pick a day, a time of day, a type of event – whatever suits your schedule. Try it out now.
- **Don't get the summertime blues.** Spend time with us at concerts, BBQs, Wit tournaments and bingo.
- **Thirsty?** Serve drinks to residents every day at 11:30 am. A half hour gets you lots of smiles.
- **Free on Fridays?** Oneg Shabbat every week at 10:30 am and bingo at 2:00 pm – come join us.
- **Want cashier experience in a friendly atmosphere?** Come to Hillel Lodge at lunch (11:45 am to 1:30 pm) Monday to Friday.
- **Culture maven?** Accompany our residents to museums, concerts and plays (Wednesday and Thursday afternoons).
- **Tuesday special:** Enjoy our special events every week at 2:15 pm.
- **Shopping experts?** Have fun while accompanying residents to shopping at a mall (Monday mornings).

To inquire further, please call 613-728-3900 ext. 191 or email judithw@hillel-ltc.com

Students welcome (please note: children under the age of 14 require adult accompaniment)

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For more information, please contact the synagogue office at 521-9700 or visit machzikeihadas.com

Bee-lieve it! This is a great honey cake

We all know that honey is served at Rosh Hashanah to symbolize our hope for a sweet year ahead.

What you may not be aware of is that honeybees are disappearing at an alarming rate. Bees don't just make honey; they are critical in the pollination of our fruits and vegetables. When you stop to consider that honeybees pollinate about one of every three bites of food we eat, this is a serious matter. This missing bee phenomenon is known as Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD).

According to Michelle Hancock in *Alive Magazine*, "CCD is defined as the unexplained, rapid disappearance of a bee colony's adult population, leaving behind either no bees or only a few, usually a queen and young workers, and sometimes plenty of food stores." What is causing CCD is up for debate.

Some feel that CCD is caused by pesticides, land development, poor weather and a dwindling food supply. Others put forth the theory that, when bees are stressed, their immune systems take a hit because nosema, a parasite, attacks their digestive systems.

What could honeybees possibly be stressed about? In migratory beekeeping, beehives are often transported long distances to pollinate farms. Imagine how you'd feel, doing a great job on one farm, then being packed up in a truck to travel thousands of miles, only to have to set up shop in a new location all over again. That would stress anyone out.

Researchers are continuing to study this mystery to see if they can reverse the trend. Here are a few ideas from the *District Domestic* website at tinyurl.com/6y5fke that you can implement in your garden to help the plight of the honeybees.

"Replace some of your lawn with flower beds.

"Keep your garden as organic as possible! Avoid using pesticides and herbicides.

"Plant native species, which bees love – for example: mint,

daisies, strawberries, raspberries, lavender, salvia, asters, sunflowers and verbena.

"Choose plants that flower at different stages in the growing season to provide a constant supply of food for the bees."

While honey cake is traditionally served at Rosh Hashanah, I have to admit that I'm not the biggest honey cake fan. To me, honey cake is the Jewish equivalent of fruitcake. Everyone makes it, but no one really wants to eat it. However, there are several honey cakes that I have come upon that have changed my mind.

The first is Triple Twisted Honey Cake, which I wrote about in my September 2004 column.

The following recipe, Honey-Glazed Beehive Cake, is a close second. It is light and delicate, unlike some of the heavier cloying sticky honey cakes I have met in my time.

Nordic Ware makes a beautiful *Beehive* cake pan, which you can bake it in. I found mine at williams-sonoma.com. I called the Toronto store and they shipped it the next day. The cake makes a beautiful gift if you are going to someone's house for Rosh Hashanah lunch. My Aunt Carol will be getting one, so if you see her, don't tell her. I want it to be a surprise.

Here's wishing you all a sweet, peaceful and healthy new year.



Made with Love

Cindy Feingold

Honey-Glazed Beehive Cake

This recipe comes from the June 2008 issue of *Martha Stewart Living*. The recipe accommodates a 9-to-11 cup beehive mold (available at williams-sonoma.com), which comes split in two parts. A honey glaze glues the two halves together. Both glazes for this cake need to be made right before assembly. If they become too firm, rewarm gently over low heat. If you don't want to bother with the beehive cake pan, you can just bake it in a 10 cup Bundt pan and it will still be wonderful.

For the cake

- 3 1/4 cups plus 2 tablespoons sifted cake flour, plus more for mold
- 1 tablespoon baking powder
- 3/4 teaspoon baking soda
- 3/4 teaspoon salt
- 2 1/4 teaspoons ground cinnamon
- 6 ounces (3/4 cup) unsalted butter or pareve margarine, softened, plus more for mold
- 1 1/4 cups packed light-brown sugar
- 2/3 cup honey
- 2 teaspoons pure vanilla extract
- 1 1/2 cups whole milk, or soy milk, room temperature
- 6 large egg whites, room temperature
- 1/4 teaspoon cream of tartar

For the honey glaze

- 2/3 cup honey
- 1/4 cup light-brown sugar
- 2 2/3 ounces (1/3 cup) unsalted butter or pareve margarine
- 1 teaspoon pure vanilla extract

For the sugar glaze

- 1/4 cup water
- 1 3/4 to 2 cups confectioners' sugar, sifted

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Using a pastry brush, coat both sides of a beehive mold with butter, making sure to cover all areas. Dust mold with flour, tap out excess, and freeze until ready to use.

Sift together flour, baking powder, baking soda, salt and cinnamon. Cream butter and brown sugar with a mixer until pale and fluffy. Reduce the speed; drizzle in honey. Beat on high until very pale and fluffy. Add vanilla. Add flour mixture, alternating with milk, beginning and ending with flour. Transfer batter to a large bowl.

Whisk egg whites until foamy. Add cream of tartar and whisk until stiff, glossy peaks form. Fold 1/3 of the egg white mixture into cake batter, then fold in the



remaining whites.

Divide batter between molds and place them on a baking sheet. Bake for 40 minutes. Cover with foil and bake 15 to 20 minutes more (a tester inserted in the middle of the cake should come out clean). Transfer molds to a wire rack and let cakes cool in pans for 15 to 20 minutes.

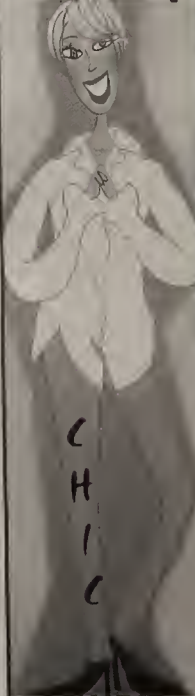
Turn out cakes, supporting them with your hand, and place flat sides on rack. Let cool completely. Wrap in plastic wrap, and refrigerate for at least 1 hour (or up to 1 day).

Carefully trim the flat sides of the cake halves with a serrated knife so each is level. Align the halves to make sure they are flush, then separate. Make the honey glaze: Bring honey, brown sugar and butter to a boil in a small saucepan, stirring until sugar dissolves. Add vanilla and remove from heat. Let cool for 1 minute.

Brush a coat of honey glaze on the flat side of each cake half. Gently press halves together, and let set upright for 5 minutes. (If they don't stay together, place a small bowl over top to hold the 2 sides together while glaze sets.) Carefully transfer beehive to a rack set over parchment. Spoon remaining warm honey glaze over cake until the cake is completely covered. Let stand until set.

Make the sugar glaze: Bring water to a boil. Add 1 3/4 cups sugar and stir to dissolve. Remove from heat; let cool for 3 minutes. Spoon some glaze over cake. (If too runny, add more sugar until glaze is the consistency of thick honey.) Pour 1/2 of the glaze over cake, letting it drizzle down the sides. Let set for 5 minutes, then spoon remaining glaze on top.

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Chugging towards the High Holidays

Engineer Ari and the Rosh Hashanah Ride

By Deborah Bodin Cohen
Illustrations by Shahar Kober
Kar-Ben Publishing 2008
32 pages. Ages 3-7

According to the author's note at the end of the book, the first actual train trip between the city of Jaffa, on the Mediterranean Coast, and inland Jerusalem took place on August 27, 1892. Travel time was three and a half hours, a drastic reduction from the three-day wagon trip that preceded the railroad. That first train carried both cargo and passengers. However, the railway itself was not officially opened until the High Holidays which occurred a month later.

In *Engineer Ari and the Rosh Hashanah Ride*, author-Deborah Bodin Cohen skillfully plays with those facts by adding a two-layered fictional story to that first train ride. Layer one is physical and has two components.

The first is a description of the Palestinian countryside along the train's route as it appeared in 1892. As the train chugs along, Ari sees cypress trees, orange groves, palm trees, prickly pear cactus, beehives, wheat fields, flocks of sheep and rams, the Jordan River, and, from a distance, "the great walled city of Jerusalem."

The second component consists of a brief inventory of some of the products the country produced at that time. At each stop along the route, children living in rural Palestine give Ari one of the symbolic items used on Rosh Hashanah to take to the children of Jerusalem. By the time the train reaches its destination, it is packed with green apples, jars of honey, loaves of round challahs and shofars.

Layer two captures the spiritual and emotional aspects of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. Before boarding his train to start that first run to Jerusalem, Engineer Ari is boastfully insensitive to the feelings of his engineer friends, Jessie and Nathaniel. Even worse, he chugs off without a word of "good-bye."

But as he toots and chugs along, Ari begins to think about his behaviour at the railroad station in Jaffa and realizes he acted badly. By the time the train reaches Jerusalem, Ari knows he has to do *teshuvah*. He has to apologize to his friends as soon as possible.

Israeli illustrator Shahar Kober has done a magnificent job of tuning in to both the storyline and its time with a delightful sense of joy and humour. Combining traditional illustration techniques with digital colouring, he shows readers what a



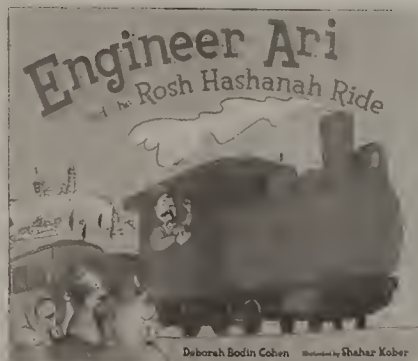
Kid Lit

Deanna Silverman

train and Palestine under Turkish rule looked like in 1892.

For example, Engineer Ari sports an old-fashioned drooping mustache and wears Turkish-style pantaloons and a blue fez. A red flag flies from the train station and the sign on the building is in English, Hebrew and Arabic. Children wave red flags. A dangling carrot encourages a donkey to keep moving. Fruit and wheat harvesting are done by hand. A shepherd passes the time by playing his *chalil*. And don't miss the apple juggler at the Jerusalem train station or, as shown in the distance as the train begins its return journey to Jaffa, Montefiore's stone windmill.

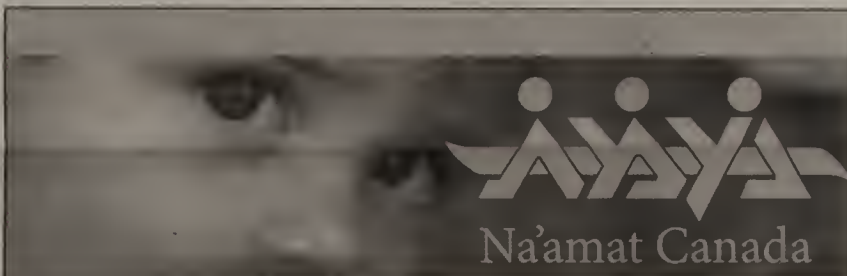
In sum, *Engineer Ari and the Rosh Hashanah Ride* is a charming holiday tale with enough added-value to make it a read-again favourite any time of the year. Although the words "Palestine," "Jewish," "Turkish" and "Arabic" are not in the



By Deborah Bodin Cohen;
illustrated by Shahar Kober

text, adults might want to add them, and the word "Israel," at appropriate spots in the story to provide their kids with an extra bit of historical understanding.

From my family to yours, *Shana Tova!* May the New Year bring you good health, success, happiness, laughter and *mazal*.



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The long wait at the emergency room

What do you do when you are sitting in the emergency waiting room at the hospital?

Well, first you read the book of short stories you brought with you. In my case, it was *The Bus Driver Who Wanted To Be God and Other Stories* by Etgar Keret. In one story called, "Pipes," the narrator claims to have gotten to heaven by climbing into a giant pipe and disappearing. Now he plays marbles all day. As you can tell, this puts you into the right mood instantly and you can imagine yourself being in the anteroom to heaven when really you are just waiting to get called to see the doctor.

Next, you read all the magazines you can stomach, telling you everything you ever wanted to know, and more, about Britney Spears and Brangelina. This does not diminish the feeling that you are in another world.

Then, I looked around. Everyone else had something like a banged up thumb, a sprained ankle or a pulled muscle. And what did I have? It was an insect bite just inside my left knee that could have been from a mosquito except that it was swollen up to the size of half a golf ball causing my whole leg to itch down to my ankle. I wanted to scratch the dam thing off!

This is nothing like *E.R.* or any of the other American television shows, I thought. No blunt force traumas, no gunshot wounds, no horrendous accident victims. "Take

two aspirins and sleep," would probably be a useful sentence for the doctors on duty.

I got there at 11:00 pm and they saw me at around 2:30 am. At first I waited in the outside room. Then, at nearly 2:00, they let me into the inner sanctum. Once I was in, the male nurse asked me over again to describe my symptoms and then directed me to room 8. Room 8, it turned out, was another waiting room where I waited another 40 minutes. By that time I figured it couldn't be too serious or I really was being triaged to go through the pearly gates.

When I told this tale to my colleague, he suggested the next time I say something like, "I have a mosquito bite and a pain in the chest." Then they would see me right away! Mind you, I might end up with an EKG and a heart monitor. But at least I'd be keeping busy. But I didn't do it, so they colour coded me with a wrist band that indicated that, if necessary, I could wait until the Moshiah walked through the door.

The doctor on duty was a young blonde dude with a laid back manner. I think he was from B.C. and wore Birkenstocks. He wasn't like those intense, driven characters you see on American hospital dramas.

He took it easy, picked up my chart and, as he read it, was joking with the nurses and the cleaning staff. I think I would want to work there. It seemed like a fun place.



Humour me, please

Rubin Friedman

He came in, went over the chart and the symptoms in a business like manner but at that late hour his eyes looked a little glazed over. Maybe it was his glasses. Maybe he had worked a long shift. But I haven't seen anybody that relaxed since I went to a party and saw Bill Clinton smoke dope and not inhale.

I was almost ready to meet my maker. Instead the doctor prescribed a double dose of antibiotics and a double dose of Benadryl along with anti-itch cream.

I was released. I was almost sad to leave and expected that as the doors closed behind me the whole place would evaporate.

It didn't. But it seemed to me the emergency entrance continued to glow eerily in the dark as I drove back into the real world, scratching my leg.

Two very different collections of Jewish music

These two collections of Jewish music are very different from each other. *The Jewish Songbook*, celebrates the popular Jewish music and humour of mid-20th century America. Although the recordings are new, much of it is the kind of thing you might have seen on programs like the Ed Sullivan Show. *The Rough Guide to Klezmer Revolution* compiles some of today's most innovative Jewish musicians, musicians with a deep understanding of klezmer's traditions and the imagination to take it in new directions.

Various Artists

The Jewish Songbook: The Heart and Humor of a People
Shout Factory
shoutfactory.com

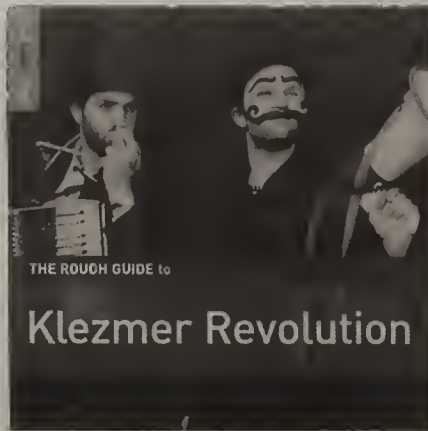
The Jewish Songbook is an interesting collection that features performances from a variety of Jewish artists, most of whom are not particularly known for the Jewish content of their repertoires. The wide ranging set includes Yiddish favourites, Catskill parodies, Broadway songs and even a rendition of the High Holy Day prayer, "Avinu Malkeinu," sung by Barbra Streisand.

Among the best musical tracks is a swinging, bilingual version of "Utt Da Zay" by the Manhattan Transfer, featuring Andy Statman, the great klezmer clarinetist, and a contemplative instrumental version of "Mein Shitele Belz," played by violinist Alicia Svigals and trumpeter Herb Alpert.

The funniest track is a hilarious version of "Mahzel (Means Good Luck)," by Triumph, the Insult Comic Dog (Robert Smigel) and Max Weinberg, the Bruce Springsteen drummer who leads Conan O'Brien's late-night band. Also enjoyable is Paul Shaffer, David Letterman's bandleader, teaming up with actor and comedian Richard Belzer, for a "Joe and Paul" routine borrowed from old-time Yiddish radio. Other highlights include Jason Alexander's take on Allan Sherman's "Shake Hands with Your Uncle Max," and Rob Schneider's singing "Bagels & Lox."

Perhaps the biggest surprise is hearing Adam Sandler eschew any attempt at laughs when he teams up with Cantor Marcelo Gindlin for a nice version of "Hine Ma Tov." It's also nice hearing Theodore Bikel as Tevye – with Betsy Hammer as Golde – singing "Sabbath Prayer" from *Fiddler*

on the Roof. Neil Sedaka, Lainie Kazan and Marvin Hamlisch are among the other contributors. With the exception of Barbra Streisand's selection, all of the tracks are released for the first time on this collection.



Various Artists

The Rough Guide to Klezmer Revolution
World Music Network
Worldmusic.net

Klezmer music, the traditional music of Eastern European Jews, has always been influenced by other music. In the old countries, klezmer musicians incorporated the influences of the Roma musicians they often played with, as well as the indigenous music of other Eastern European cultures. In 20th century America, first wave klezmer musicians like Naftule Brandwein and Dave Tarras incorporated jazz and other modern influences into the music. The contemporary klezmer musicians represented in *The Rough Guide to Klezmer Revolution* have continued the tradition of incorporating new, or new-to-klezmer, styles of music into the genre.



Music

Michael Regenstreif

Among the klezmer revolutionaries included in the collection is Ottawa- and Chelsea-raised Josh Dolgin, aka 'Socalled,' who's become well known for adding the beats and samples of hip hop to klezmer. Socalled is featured on two songs. On "Alt.shul Kale Bazetsn," he teams up with violinist Sophie Solomon and Brave Old World singer Michael Alpert for a Jewish wedding song unlike anything that was ever heard at a traditional Jewish wedding party. Then he adds a funky hip hop bottom to Theodore Bikel's performance of "Belz," tuning it into "(Rock the) Belz."

There are a number of other Canadians represented in the collection.

Toronto's Flying Bulgars present the previously unreleased "Shivering," sung by composer David Wall to a circus-like arrangement. Montreal's Shtreiml performs the intricate, speed-shifting tunc, "Uncle Tibor's Spicy Paprikash," with some great harmonica work by composer Jason Rosenblatt. Toronto-based pianist Marilyn Lemer adds some beboppy dissonance to the traditional melody of "Fun Tashlikh," while Wolf Krakowski, who grew up in Toronto after being born in 1947 in an Austrian camp for displaced persons, does a version of "Friling," influenced by reggae and cabaret music.

There's lots of other great music in the collection. Among the highlights are the Klezmatics' version of Holly Near's anthem "I Ain't Afraid," which they recorded a few years ago in response to the events and reactions of 9/11; a wild romp on "In Your Garden Twenty Fecund Fruit Trees" by Frank London's Klezmer Brass All Stars; and "Leibes Tanz," by Margot Leverett and the Klezmer Mountain Boys, a band that delightfully fuses klezmer with bluegrass music, in collaboration with vocalist Michael Alpert.

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The Board of Directors of the Ottawa Jewish
Community Foundation acknowledges with
thanks contributions to the following funds as of
August 19, 2008.

ABELSON FAMILY ENDOWMENT FUND

Mazal Tov to:

Arlene and Norm Glube on their 40th wedding
anniversary and the marriage of Stephanie to John
by Tracey Kronick.

Anniversary wishes to:

Shelley and Morris Schachnow by Lois and Bob
Abelson.

FRANCEEN AND STANLEY AGES ENDOWMENT FUND

Mazal Tov to:

Fran and Stan Ages on the birth of their 6th
grandchild by Murray and Mary Macy.

ROSE AND LOUIS ARCHIBAR MEMORIAL FUND

Birthday wishes to:

Freda Lithwick by Zelda Freedman.

ANNE AND LOUIS ARRON MEMORIAL FUND

In memory of:

Toby Appel by Daphne and Stanley Arron.

RICKI AND BARRY BAKER ENDOWMENT FUND

Mazal tov to:

Irma and Harold Sachs on the birth of their
granddaughter by Ricki and Barry Baker and
family.

Joan and Russell Kronick on becoming grand-
parents by Ricki and Barry Baker.

MYRNA AND NORMAN BARWIN FOUNDATION OF THE PINCHAS ZUKERMAN

MUSICAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Mazal tov to:

Jane and Martin Gordon on the birth of Leo by
Myrna and Norm Barwin.

Birthday wishes to:

Norm Barwin by Harold and Irma Sachs.

In memory of:

Toby Appel by Myrna and Norm Barwin.

CAYLA AND MICHAEL BAYLIN ENDOWMENT FUND

In memory of:

Toby Appel by Cayla and Michael Baylin.

Mazal Tov to:

Lia Vollack and Michael Friedman on their
recent marriage by Cayla and Michael Baylin.

DORIS AND JACK BAYLIN ENDOWMENT FUND

Anniversary wishes to:

Sally and Harry Weltman by Honey and Jack
Baylin.

Speedy recovery to:

Ethel Taylor by Honey and Jack Baylin.

In memory of:

Ruth (Sunny) Silverman by Honey and Jack
Baylin.

JAMIE BEREZIN ENDOWMENT FUND

In memory of:

Arnold Webber by Shelley, Gary and Jamie
Berezin.

Joseph Ages by Shelley, Gary and Jamie
Berezin.

Zeev Vered by Shelley, Gary and Jamie Berezin.
Les Budd by Shelley, Gary and Jamie Berezin.

Michele Imbaud by Shelley, Gary and Jamie
Berezin.

Toby Appel by Shelley, Gary and Jamie Berezin.
Anniversary wishes to:

Jerry and Marcia Koven by Shelley, Gary and
Jamie Berezin.

Arlene and Norm Glube by Arlene and Ken
Glube.

Best of luck to:

Gerry, Josce and Jacob Posen in their new home
by Shelley, Gary and Jamie Berezin.

CYNTHIA AND DAVID BLUMENTHAL ENDOWMENT FUND

In memory of:

Myer Vexler by David and Cynthia Blumenthal.

Mazal tov to:

Amell Goldberg on his upcoming marriage to
Judy Ross by David and Cynthia Blumenthal.

NAOMI BULKA MEMORIAL FUND

In appreciation to:

Dr. Harry Prizant by Emily Nadolny.

DAVID AND QUEENIE COHEN MEMORIAL FUND

In observance of the Yahrzeit of:

Ruben Kalin a beloved father, by David and
Judith Kalin.

PHILLIP COHEN MEMORIAL FUND

In memory of:

Roslyn Cogan by Deborah Cohen; Jan, Jerome,
Anna, Daniel and Joseph Cohen-Lyons.

SANDI AND EDDY COOK ENDOWMENT FUND

Warm welcome to:

Judith Stoler by Sandi and Eddy Cook.

Mazal tov to:

Alyce and Allan Baker on the arrival of their
twin grandchildren by Sandi and Eddy Cook.

DOLANSKY FAMILY FUND

In memory of:

Toby Appel by Donna and Bernie Dolansky.

CYNTHIA AND ABE ENGEL ENDOWMENT FUND

Mazal Tov to:

Ken and Tina Ages on the birth of their daugh-
ter by Josh Engel.

In memory of:

Ray Epstein by Cynthia Engel.

FLORENCE FAMILY MEMORIAL FUND

In observance of the Yahrzeit of:

Esther Smith, a dear mother by A.L., Ann and
Leanne Smith.

In memory of:

Joel Delman by A.L., Ann and Leanne Smith.

ALFRED AND KAYSA FRIEDMAN ENDOWMENT FUND

Mazal tov to:

Alfred and Kaysa on the marriage of Michael to
Lia by Lilyan Philipp; Fran and Stan Ages; Murray
and Mary Macy; Margo and Gordon Roston; Sara
Vered.

Lia Vollack and Michael Friedman on their mar-
riage by Susannah and Charles Oalfen; Robert and
Roslyn Smolkin.

GILBOA/MAOZ FAMILY FUND

Birthday wishes to:

Sally Hawks by Tal Gilboa and Hader Maoz.

Mazal Tov to:

Allan and Alyce Baker on the birth of their twin
grandchildren, Audrey Zahava and Griffin Henry
Zion by Tal Gilboa, Paz, Eitan and Hadar Maoz.

Continued on page 72

FOUNDATION DONATIONS

STAN AND LIBBY GLUBE FAMILY FUND

Mazal Tov to:

Norman and Arlene Glube on their 40th wedding anniversary by Dan and Marilyn Kimmel; Larry Lithwick.

JACK AND GERT GOLDSTEIN MEMORIAL FUND

In memory of:

Toby Appel by Diane and Allen Abramson.

VICTOR AND RACHEL GOULD ENDOWMENT FUND

Birthday wishes to:

Freda Lithwick by Rachel Gould.

Mazal Tov to:

Joan and Russell Kronick on becoming grandparents by Zelaine and Sol Shinder.

BEATRICE AND SAMUEL GREENBERG FAMILY FUND

In memory of:

Toby Appel by Beatrice Greenberg and Janice and Arlene.

COLIN HUGHES MEMORIAL FUND

In memory of:

Colin Hughes by Marie-Genevieve Mounier.

LIBBY AND STAN KATZ FAMILY COMMUNITY ENDOWMENT FUND

Anniversary wishes to:

Libby and Stan Katz by Ann Bernick.

ARTHUR AND SARAH KIMMEL MEMORIAL FUND

In memory of:

Ruth Silverman by Dan and Marilyn Kimmel.
Lawrence Weiner by Dan and Marilyn Kimmel.

Toby Appel by Dan and Marilyn Kimmel.

SHARON KOFFMAN ATHLETIC SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Birthday wishes to:

Sandra Zagon by Sandy and Philip Gennis; Shelley and Stewart Robinson; Elaine and Saul Fox.

KRANTZBERG KRANE FAMILY FUND

Birthday wishes to:

Mark Froimovitch by Sam and Myra Krane. Joshua and Justin.

Anniversary wishes to:

Sam and Myra Krane by Clair Krantzberg.

RIVA AND ABRAHAM KROLL MEMORIAL FUND

Birthday wishes to:

Aunt Ellen Lithwick by Harvey and Yvonne Lithwick and family.

ANNICE AND SYDNEY KRONICK FAMILY FUND

Speedy recovery to:

Buddy Steinberg's mother by Debi, Neil, Josh and Adam Zaret.

Mazal Tov to:

Alfred and Kaysa on the marriage of Michael to Lia by Sidney Kkronick and Barbara Sugarman.

In memory of:

Mrs. Kevin O'Leary by Debi, Neil, Josh and Adam Zaret.

ISSIE AND EDITH LANDAU ENDOWMENT FUND

In observance of the Yahrzeit of:

Issie Landau by Edie Landau.

Anniversary wishes to:

Dr. and Mrs. Jim Steinberg by Edie Landau.

In memory of:

Irene Landau's mother by Edie Landau.

Speedy recovery to:

Irene Landau by Edie Landau.

HARRY AND ZENA LEIKIN ENDOWMENT FUND

In memory of:

Toby Appel by Libby and Stan Katz.

BERNIE AND IDA LESH ENDOWMENT FUND

In memory of:

Toby Appel by Ida Lesh.

SANDRA AND JACIE LEVINSON COMMUNITY ENDOWMENT FUND

R'fuah Sh'lemah to:

Jacie Levinson by Mary and Murray Macy.

RHODA AND JOE LEVITAN AND FAMILY COMMUNITY ENDOWMENT FUND

Speedy recovery to:

Rhoda Levitan by Chani and Bram Bregman; Diane Koven.

RUTH AND RON LEVITAN ENDOWMENT FUND

In memory of:

Toby Appel by Ron and Ruth Levitan.

JOSEPH AND EVELYN LIEFF ENDOWMENT FUND

Thinking of:

Jacie Levinson by Joe and Evelyn Lieff.
Ethel Taylor by Joe and Evelyn Lieff.

In memory of:

Daniel Ublansky by Norman Lieff and Francine Greenspoon.

Roslyn Cogan by Joe and Evelyn Lieff.

ARNOLD AND ROSE LITHWICK FAMILY COMMUNITY ENDOWMENT FUND

Anniversary wishes to:

Marieta and Barry Lithwick by Harvey and Yvonne Lithwick and family.

IDA AND SIDNEY LITHWICK ENDOWMENT FUND

In memory of:

Sidney Lithwick by Leonard Shore and Jane Mirsky.

DAVID LOEB FAMILY FUND

Mazal Tov to:

Alfred and Kaysa Friedman on the recent marriage of their son by David and Adele Loeb

ANNE (BLAIR) AND HYMAN MAYBERGER ENDOWMENT FUND

Anniversary wishes to:

Morris and Shelley Schachnow by Rose and Chick Taylor; Ann Bernick

ABRAM AND EDITH MOLOT MEMORIAL FUND

In memory of:

Toby Appel by Carol and Stuart Levine.

REUBEN AND SYLVIA MOLOT ENDOWMENT FUND

In memory of:

Sylvia Molot by Murray and Mary Molot; Leonard Shore and Jane Mirsky.

Toby Appel by Judith and Vincent Piazza.

TANYA AND SAMUEL MOSES MORIN MEMORIAL FUND

R'fuah Sh'lemah to:

Rabbi Gary Kessler by Harvey Morin.

POSEN FAMILY FUND

In appreciation to:

Josec Posen by Anita Bloom.

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Birthday wishes to:

Yetta Cohen by Ethel and Jack Prehogan.

GERALD AND MARY-BELLE PULVERMACHER FAMILY ENDOWMENT FUND

Mazal tov to:

Mr. and Mrs. Abe Gamus on their new grandson by Gerry and Mary-Belle Pulvermacher.

Birthday wishes to:

Sally Hawks by Gerry and Mary-Belle Pulvermacher.

In memory of:

Edward Hounsell by Gerry and Mary-Belle Pulvermacher.

ALTI AND BEREL RODAL FAMILY FUND

Mazal Tov to:


Rabbi & Mrs Moshe Kotlarsky on the forthcoming marriage of Sruyl and Chaya by Berel and Alti Rodal.

Eli and Ziva Levite on the birth of Lior by Berel and Alti Rodal.

In memory of:

Toby Appel by Berel and Alti Rodal.
Reb Yaakov Dov Hayes by Berel and Alti Rodal.

Continued on page 73



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In time of need or pre-need we can serve you from any of our locations.
Our Central Chapel is located at 315 McLeod Street

שנה טובה FOUNDATION DONATIONS

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FLORENCE AND GDALYAH ROSENFELD ENDOWMENT FUND

In memory of:
Esther Rosenfeld's father by Florence and
Gdalyah Rosenfeld.
Toby Slatt by Florence and Gdalyah Rosenfeld.

FRANCES AND MORTON ROSS FAMILY FUND

In memory of:
Ida Gaffen by Fran and Mort Ross.
Saul Klar by Fran and Mort Ross and Helen and
Abe Fleming.
Myer Vexler by Fran and Mort Ross.
Mazal tov to:
Laraine and Victor Kaminsky on the marriage of
their son Adam to Michelle by Fran and Mort Ross.

SHELLEY AND SID ROTHMAN FAMILY FUND

Speedy recovery to:
Mel Shafer by Shelley Rothman.

HELEN AND ROY SAIPÉ ENDOWMENT FUND

In memory of:
Toby Appel by Helen Saipé; Geri and Joe Miller.

ELAYNE AND WESLEY SCHACTER ENDOWMENT FUND

Mazal tov to:
Mark, Bev, Jordan and Lindsay Steinberg on Jordan's Bar Mitzvah by Elayne and Wesley Schacter.
Anniversary wishes to:
Wesley and Elayne Schacter by Susan, Charles, Jaclyn and Paul Schwartzman.
Sam and Myra Krane by Susan, Charles, Jaclyn and Paul Schwartzman.

HAROLD SHAFFER MEMORIAL FUND

Birthday wishes to:
Frances Shaffer by Sheldon and Sunny Shaffer.
Sally Wolinsky by Frances and Dorothy Shaffer and Rhea Wohl.

SHEKEL HAKODESH ENDOWMENT FUND

In memory of:
Toby Appel by Steve and Laurie Gordon.
In appreciation to:
Abe Nadrich by Steve and Laurie Gordon.

SHMELZER-HOROVITCH ENDOWMENT FUND

Mazal tov to:
Natasha and Jon Blitt on the birth of Jordan by
Sol and Anne Shmelzer.

ISRAEL AND REBECCA SHORE MEMORIAL FUND

In memory of:
Toby Appel by Leonard Shore and Jane Mirsky.

SAMUEL AND KATHERINE SIGLER MEMORIAL FUND

In memory of:
Toby Appel by Barbara and Jules Sigler.

JACK AND SARAH SILVERSTEIN FAMILY ENDOWMENT FUND

Birthday wishes to:
Ingrid Levitz by the Silverstein family.
Robert Greenberg by the Silverstein family

MOE AND CHARLOTTE SLACK MEMORIAL FUND

On memory of:
Toby Appel by Marlene Levine.

LAURA AND GORDON SPERGEL ENDOWMENT FUND

Speedy recovery to:
Mel Shafer by Mark and Marla Spengel.

LEAH, FRED AND HENRY STEINMAN ENDOWMENT FUND

Mazal To to:
Cary and Valerie Steinman on their son upcoming marriage by Philip Gennis.

IRVING AND ETHEL TAYLOR ENDOWMENT FUND

R'fuah Sh'lemah to:
Ethel Taylor by Murray and Mary Macy.

STEPHEN AND GAIL VICTOR ENDOWMENT FUND

In memory of:
Ida Gaffen by Sandy Marchello.
Mazal Tov to:
Fran and Stan Ages on the birth of their granddaughter by Sandy Marchello.

MIRIAM AND LOUIS WEINER ENDOWMENT FUND

In memory of:
Toby Appel by Miriam and Louis Weiner.

MILDRED AND PERCY WEINSTEIN ENDOWMENT FUND

Birthday wishes to:
Brian Bailey by Millie Weinstein.
In observance of the Yahrzeit of:
Percy Weinstein by Millie Weinstein.

IRVING AND DIANE WEXLER FAMILY FUND

In memory of:
Toby Appel by Diane Wexler.
Thinking of:
Ethel Taylor by Diane Wexler.

SAM AND HELENE ZARET MEMORIAL FUND

Congratulations to:
Steve and Heidi Polowin on the upcoming marriage of Jordana to Ari by Debi and Neil Zaret.

ZIPES KARANOFESKY FAMILY ENDOWMENT FUND

Birthday wishes to:
Sonny Segal by Rick and Helen Zipes.
Mazal Tov to:
Howard and Deborah Krebs on the marriage of Jonathon to Meital Stem by Rick and Helen Zipes.
Joan and Russell Kronick on the birth of their granddaughter by Rick and Helen Zipes.

SANDRA AND SAM ZUNDER ENDOWMENT FUND

Anniversary wishes to:
Morris and Shelley Schachnow by Sandra and Sam Zunder.

In memory of:

Toby Appel by Sandra and Sam Zunder.
Dorothy Nodelman by Sandra and Sam Zunder.
Jean Zackon by Sandra and Sam Zunder.

THE SAUL AND EDNA GOLDFARB B'NAI MITZVAH PROGRAM

JUSTIN WAKTER MITZVAH FUND
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Beth Roodman by Sally and Morton Taller.
Tara Wakter by Sally and Morton Taller.
Caroline Schesinger by Sally and Morton Taller.
Anniversary wishes to:
Beverly and Bemie Zafiman by Sally and Morton Taller.
Connie and Gerald Steinberg by Sally and Morton Taller.

Contributions may be made online at www.OJCF.ca or by contacting Caroline Preap at 613-798-4696 extension 232, Monday to Friday. We have voice mail. Our e-mail address is donatinn@ojcf.ca.

Attractive cards are sent to convey the appropriate sentiments. All donations are acknowledged with an official receipt for income tax purposes.

We accept Visa, MasterCard and Amex.

An unveiling
in memory of
Rose Litwack
aleha hashalom
will take place
Sunday,
September 21, 2008
at 2:00 pm

Bank Street Cemetery

Family and friends
are welcome to attend

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CARLSON WAGONLIT TRAVEL SPECIAL 2009 GROUP DEPARTURES

January 22nd **BRIDGE WITH LIZ IN PUERTO VALLARTA, MEXICO - 7 DAYS**
Nonstop flight from Ottawa! Non bridge players welcome

February 7th **RUBY PRINCESS GOLF CRUISE WITH PAUL SHERRATT**
Western Caribbean - 7 days - non golfers welcome

May 25th **CANYON RANCH SPA GETAWAY - Almost sold out!**
5-day package includes transportation, spa plan and much more!

June 29th **BALTIC CRUISE ON OCEANIA REGATTA - 14 DAYS**
Free air from Toronto included! Starts in Stockholm, ends in Dover (London)
Special features: 2 days in Stockholm, 3 days in St. Petersburg and 7 other exciting ports of call.

October 30th **VIETNAM, CAMBODIA, THAILAND - 16 DAYS**
Deluxe tour, most meals included.

Please call Chris Calder (ext. 229) or Nancy Borer (ext. 232) for further information.



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*Best wishes for a sweet,
happy and healthy New Year.
Shana Tova*

*Mitchell Bellman, Nicola Hamer
Emma, Noali and Abby*

*May you be inscribed
for a year of joy
and blessings.*

*Jessie and Joe
Murray*

*May you be inscribed
for a year of good
health and happiness.*

*Helen and Chaim
Gilboa
and family*

*May you and your family
be richly blessed in the new year
with health, happiness,
peace and prosperity.*

Avalee and Ron Prehogan and family

*From our family to yours, best wishes
for a healthy and happy new year.
Shana Tova.*

*Mendy Taller,
Jason & Nina, Natalie & James*

*From our family to yours, best wishes
for a healthy and happy new year.
Shana Tova.*

*Archie and Linda Cogan
Lisa, Jayne, Tara, Liam and Jasper*

*May you and yours be richly blessed
throughout the coming year
with health, peace and prosperity.*

*Ian, Randi, Jonathan,
Matthew and Adam Sherman*

HAPPY ROSH HASHDARAH

*Best wishes for a healthy
and happy New Year. Shana Tova.*

Rickie and Martin Saslove

*From our family to yours, best wishes
for a healthy and happy new year.
Shana Tova.*

*Liz, Arnie, Ariel, Danya, Jordana,
Alexandra, Michael and Tori Vêred*

*From our family to yours,
we wish you
a year of peace and prosperity,
health and happiness.*

Linda, Steven, Jessica and Lorne Kerzner

*Best wishes for a healthy
and happy New Year. Shana Tova.*

*Walter, Karen,
Steven and Mitchell Fogel*



*May you and yours be richly blessed
throughout the coming year
with health, peace and prosperity.*

Chick and Rose Taylor

*Best wishes for a healthy
and happy New Year. Shana Tova.*

*Lillian Cardash
and Moses Cardash*

*Best wishes for a healthy
and happy New Year.
Shana Tova.*

Uri and Teena Goldberg

*Best wishes for a healthy
and happy New Year. Shana Tova.*

*Rhoda and Jeffrey Miller
Howard and Sara*

*Best wishes for a healthy
and happy New Year.
Shana Tova.*

Robert and Waltraud Walker

*May the new year
bring all the blessings
of peace,
health
and prosperity.
Shana Tova.*

*The Staff
of the
Ottawa Jewish Bulletin*



Ottawa teens at the JCC Maccabi Games in Detroit

The Jewish Community Centre (JCC) Maccabi Games are an annual sporting event for Jewish teens aged 13 to 16 featuring many of the same individual and team sports that are contested at the Olympic Games.

The first Games were held in Memphis in 1982 to honour the memory of the 11 Israelis murdered by terrorists at the Olympic Games in Munich on September 5, 1972.

Well over 3,200 athletes took part in the 2008 JCC Maccabi Games in Detroit from August 17 to 22. Teams from Vancouver, Toronto, Hamilton, Windsor, Winnipeg, Montreal and Ottawa represented Canada, along with delegations from the U.S., Venezuela, Hungary, Mexico, the United Kingdom and Israel.

The opening ceremonies were held at the Palace at Auburn Hills, home of the Detroit Pistons. The *Parade of Athletes* saw each delegation – dressed in team apparel – enter the arena proudly waving banners representing their city and country in front of a large and very spirited crowd.

The guest of honour was Olympian Mark Spitz who shared his Maccabi experience to an appreciative audience.



The Ottawa girls volleyball team playing at the JCC Maccabi Games included (front row, left to right): Esher Minywab, Dana Pearl, Idit Prizant, Rebecca Silver; (back row) Coach Meira Yan, Stephanie Hagerman, Corinne Baray, Melina Rymberg and Erica Greene. (Photo: Jon Braun)

Before the torch was lit to mark the opening of the games, athletes, coaches, spectators and parents recited an oath agreeing to respect the rules of *Rachmanus*, agreeing to fair play, good sportsmanship and compassion in honour of the Jewish people, the State of Israel and their respective communities.

Anouk Spitzer, daughter of Andre Spitzer, the Israeli fencing coach killed at the 1972 Olympic Games, participated in a fitting tribute to the Munich 11.

All athletes were billeted in welcoming Jewish homes and the Games were facilitated by enthusiastic volunteers with bright orange t-shirts who assisted the large contingent of parents and spectators. Each of the sporting venues was professional in every way.

The West Bloomfield Jewish Community Center was the focal point for the youngsters between events and in the evenings with the *K'far Maccabi* areas providing an informal setting for athletes to get to know one another while learning about Israel and experiencing Jewish and Israeli culture.

Ottawa's delegation of 16 athletes and three coaches was led by Soloway JCC athletic director Jon Braun. Competing in the U16 boys basketball event were David Braun, Harrison Freeman, Reuben Goldberg, Max Green, Michael Levine,



The team for the U16 girls volleyball tournament was Corinne Baray, Stephanie Hagerman, Esther Minywab, Dana Pearl, Idit Prizant, Melina Rymberg, Rebecca Silver and coach Meira Yan.

Although our teams faced strong competition in both events, they performed well and represented our community with distinction.

Several Ottawa parents made the trip to the Motor City to support our athletes. They included Sbeila Stanislawski, Moe Litwack, Bob Wener and Lynne Oreck-Wener, Ida Firestone and Harry Prizant.

An Ottawa-Toronto connection paved the way for a Nepean ball player to compete in the Games. Former Ottawa resident, Grant Smith is the athletic director of the Bathurst Jewish Community Center and in the true spirit of the Maccabi Games, found a spot for Robbie Osterer on Toronto's U14 baseball team. Robbie was the winning pitcher in Canada's only baseball vic-

tory at the Games.

Athletes and coaches from every delegation to the Maccabi Games took part in the *Days of Sharing and Caring Program* learning about the genocide in Darfur and participated in an afternoon of community service in a *Tikkun Olam* and *Tzedakah* event.

Detroit's Jewish community did an outstanding job of hosting the Games and deserves high praise for their efforts. *Yasher Koach* Motown!

Participating in the JCC Maccabi Games is an experience not to be missed by 13- to 16-year-old athletically minded kids. There is no question that each youngster leaves the Games with a deeper appreciation of Jewish values and the importance of identifying with the State of Israel.

Contact Jon Braun at jbraun@jccottawa.com for more information about the JCC Maccabi Games and other athletic activities at the Soloway JCC.



Ottawa pitcher Robbie Osterer on the mound for Toronto's Bathurst JCC at the Maccabi Games.

(Photo: Irv Osterer)



The Ottawa boys basketball team playing at the JCC Maccabi Games included (front row, left to right): Hart Wener, Harrison Freeman, Reuben Goldberg, Mathew Levinson; Coach Carlos 'Bobby' Brown; (back row) Coach Jordan Pleet, David Braun, Michael Levine, Max Green, Gavi Stulberg and Adam Ublansky. (Photo: Jon Braun)

WHAT'S GOING ON September 15 to 28, 2008

For a further listings
visit [www.jewishottawa.org/
calendar/planitjewish](http://www.jewishottawa.org/calendar/planitjewish)



ON-GOING PROGRAMS
Yiddish-speaking group, hosted by Jewish Family Services, 2255 Carling Avenue, Suite 301. Info: 613-722-2225, ext. 325 or 306.

Deadly Medicine: Creating the Master Race exhibition, through display and specific programs, looks at how the Nazis

used eugenics to justify mass murder and, ultimately, the Holocaust, Canadian War Museum until November 11. Info: 819-776-8600.

WEEKLY EVENTS TUESDAYS

Israeli Folkdancing, no experience or partner required, Hillel Academy, 31 Nadolny Sachs Private, 6:30 pm. Info: 613-729-2090.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

Stem Cell Research: Issues and Opportunities, hosted by Weizmann Science Canada, interactive forum and question period with Dr. Tsvee Lapidot of the Weizmann Institute of Science, Department of Immunology; and Dr. Michael Rudnicki and Zubin Master, Ph.D., of the Regenerative Medicine Program and the Sprott Centre for Stem Cell Research, Ottawa Health Research Institute, Library and Archives Canada, 395 Wellington Street, 7:30 pm. Info: 613-236-3391.

Lecture Series with Dr. Henn Habib of Concordia University on Lebanon, Hamas, and the Israeli-Syrian talks. Continues on September 23, sponsored by the Vered Israel Cultural Centre, 7:30 pm. Info: 613-798-9818, ext. 243.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

Let's do Lunch, sponsored by Jewish Family Services and Agudath Israel Congregation, "Name that Tune" with Shaina Lipsey, 1400 Coldrey Avenue, 12:00 pm. Info: 613-728-3501.

Friends of the St. Louis Documentary, sponsored by Machzikel Hadas Congregation, one-hour documentary of the remaining survivors of the St. Louis ship, 2310 Virginia Drive, 7:00 pm. Info: 613-521-9700.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

Jewish Federation of Ottawa Women's Campaign Luncheon, celebrating the 36th anniversary of the Women's Division, featuring

Paper Clips project creator Linda Hooper, Congregation Beth Shalom, 151 Chapel Street, 11:30 am. Info: 613-798-4696, ext. 270.

Hillel Ottawa Opening BBQ, all Jewish university and college students are invited to enjoy great

food and get together with old friends and meet new ones, Hillel House, 284 Laurier Avenue East, 4:00 pm. Info: 613-236-2345.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23
Jewish Family Services 28th

Annual General Meeting, with guest speaker David Berman on "Weapons of Mass Deception - Social Responsibility in Advertising," 2255 Carling Avenue, 3rd Floor, 7:00 pm. Info: 613-722-2225.



CANDLELIGHTING BEFORE

Sep 19 ☆ 6:47 pm

Sep 26 ☆ 6:34 pm

EREV ROSH HASHANAH

Sep 29 ☆ 6:28 pm

ROSH HASHANAH

Sep 30 ☆ after

7:28 pm

COMING SOON

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26

Hillel Lodge Auxiliary Tea, annual fundraiser for Hillel Lodge, 10 Nadolny Sachs Private, 2:00 pm. Info: 613-820-4004.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 30

CHOICES, sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Ottawa Women's Division, with guest speaker: Ruth Andrew Ellenson, Agudath Israel Congregation, 1400 Coldrey Avenue, 6:00 pm. Info: 613-798-4696, ext. 270.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 5

Members Meeting, Jewish Federation of Ottawa, 7:00 pm. Info: 613-798-4696, ext. 236.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 24

Annual General Meeting of Jewish National Fund of Ottawa, honouring Barbara Crook and Dan Greenberg, with keynote speaker Ambassador Dennis Ross, special adviser to Senator Barack Obama and lead negotiator on Israeli-Palestinian issue for former US presidents George. H.W. Bush and William Clinton, Museum of Civilization, 6:00 pm. Info: 613-798-2411.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7

Mitzvah Day '08, sponsored by the Young Adult Division of the Jewish Federation of Ottawa. Info: 613-798-4696, ext. 270.

Unless otherwise noted, activities take place at The Joseph and Rose Ages Family Building, 21 Nadolny Sachs Private.

This information is taken from the community calendar maintained by the Jewish Community Campus of Ottawa Inc. Organizations which would like their events to be listed, no matter where they are to be held, should make sure they are recorded by Benita Siemiatycki, calendar coordinator at 613-798-4696 ext. 227. We have voice mail. Accurate details must be provided and all events must be open to the Jewish public. You may fax to 798-4695 or email to bsiemiatycki@ewishottawa.com.

To our valued clients "L'Shanah Tova".



Arthur Resnick Mark Hison Wesley Rollman Blake Cassidy Sheldon Edin

Rosh Hashanah marks the beginning of a new year. We go to shul and hear the sounds of the shofar. We review our mistakes, cast off our sins, and resolve to do better in the coming year. We spend time with family and cherished friends.

To the 1500 investors of the Romspen Mortgage Investment Fund,

the large majority being Jewish, we wish you continued success and good health. From Arthur, Mark, Wes, Blake, Shelly and our entire staff, "L'Shanah tova tikatev v'taiatem - May you be inscribed and sealed for a good year."



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Toll Free: 1.800.494.0389

www.romspenfund.com

Condolences

Condolences are extended to the family of:

Roslyn Cogan

Abe Padolsky

May their memory be a blessing always.

The CONDOLENCE COLUMN
is offered as a public service
to the community.

There is no charge.

For a listing in this column, please call
Caroline Preap, 613-798-4696, ext. 232.
Voice mail is available.

BULLETIN DEADLINES

SEPTEMBER 24 FOR OCTOBER 13

OCTOBER 3 FOR OCTOBER 27

OCTOBER 22 FOR NOVEMBER 10

NOVEMBER 5 FOR NOVEMBER 24

NOVEMBER 26 FOR DECEMBER 15*

* Community-wide Issue (all dates subject to change)

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